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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

North Korea suspends plans for retaliation against Seoul

By KIM GAMEL
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un suspended plans for military retaliation against the South, state-run media reported Wednesday, in a de-escalation of political tensions on the eve of the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War.

A senior U.S. diplomat, meanwhile, said Washington and Seoul remain ready to engage with North Korea in hopes of rekindling nuclear talks that deadlocked last year amid disagreements over economic sanctions.

The surprise reversal by North Korea followed weeks of bellicose rhetoric by Kim's powerful sister, Kim Yo Jong. The saber-rattling was capped by a June 16 blast that devastated an inter-Korean liaison office on the North's side of the border to protest South Korean activists' efforts to float anti-regime propaganda into the communist state.

North Korea also removed loudspeakers used for blaring propaganda against the South, which the communist state had

SEE RETALIATION ON PAGE 4



Ann Young-Joon/AP

An activist holds a card during a press conference to demand peace on the Korean Peninsula on the eve of the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War in Seoul, South Korea, on Wednesday.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

US sees surge in virus



Jae C. Hong/AP

A woman walks out of a liquor store past a sign requesting that customers wear a mask Tuesday in Santa Monica, Calif.

New coronavirus cases have reached highest level in two months

By NICK PERRY
AND KEN MORITSUGU
Associated Press

New coronavirus cases in the U.S. have surged to their highest level in two months and are now back to where they were at the peak of the outbreak.

The U.S. on Tuesday reported 34,700 new cases of the virus, according to a tally compiled by Johns Hopkins University that

was published Wednesday. There have been only two previous days that the U.S. has reported more cases: April 9 and April 24, when a record 36,400 cases were logged.

New cases in the U.S. have been surging for more than a week after trending down for more than six weeks. While early hot spots like New York and New Jersey have seen cases steadily decrease, the virus has been hit-

ting the south and west. Several states on Tuesday set single-day records, including Arizona, California, Mississippi, Nevada and Texas.

Earlier Tuesday, Dr. Anthony Fauci told Congress that the next few weeks are critical to tamping down the surge.

Fauci, the infectious disease chief at the National Institutes of Health, told lawmakers he

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34,700

The number of new cases of the virus the U.S. reported on Tuesday, according to a tally compiled by Johns Hopkins University that was published Wednesday. There have been only two previous days that the U.S. has reported more coronavirus cases.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Segway to stop making namesake vehicle

Associated Press

Segway, which boldly claimed its two-wheeled personal transporter would revolutionize the way people get around, is ending production of its namesake vehicle.

The Segway PT, popular with tourists and police officers but better known for its high-profile crashes, will be retired on July 15, the company said in a statement.

"Within its first decade, the

Segway PT became a staple in security and law enforcement, viewed as an effective and efficient personal vehicle," said Judy Cai, Segway president, in a statement, noting that it gained popularity with vacationers in major cities in North America, Europe, Asia, South America and the Middle East in the past decade.

But the Segway, which carries a standing passenger on a wide platform, accounted for less than 1.5% of the company's revenue last year. The company said 21

employees will be laid off, another 12 employees will stay on for two months to a year and five will remain at the Bedford, N.H. facility.

The transportation revolution that inventor Dean Kamen envisioned when he founded the company in 1999 never took off. The Segway's original price tag of around \$5,000 was a hurdle. It also was challenging to ride because the rider had to be balanced at a specific angle for the vehicle to move forward.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		
Euro costs (June 25).....	\$1.10	Switzerland (Franc).....0.9477
Dollar buys (June 25).....	60.8629	Thailand (Baht).....30.85
British pound (June 25).....	\$1.22	Turkey (Lira).....6.8554
Japanese yen (June 25).....	104.00	(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For moral local currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currency to the dollar except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars to pound and the euro, which is dollars to euro.)
South Korean won (June 25).....	1,174.00	
Commercial rates		
Bahrain (Dinar).....	0.3771	
British pound.....	\$1.2466	
Canada (Dollar).....	1.3592	
China (Yuan).....	7.0773	
Denmark (Krone).....	6.6157	
Egypt (Pound).....	16.1696	
Euro.....	\$1.2266/0.8876	
Hong Kong (Dollar).....	7.7593	
Hungary (Forint).....	312.45	
Israel (Shekel).....	3.4313	
Japan (Yen).....	106.87	
Kuwait (Dinar).....	0.3077	
Norway (Krone).....	9.5747	
Philippines (Peso).....	50.09	
Poland (Zloty).....	3.95	
Saudi Arabia (Riyal).....	3.7511	
Singapore (Dollar).....	1.3900	
South Korea (Won).....	1,203.70	

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate.....	3.25
Discount rate.....	0.25
Federal funds market rate.....	0.06
3-month bill.....	0.13
30-year bond.....	1.49

WEATHER OUTLOOK

THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



THURSDAY IN EUROPE



FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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MILITARY



ROSE L. THAYER/Stars and Stripes

U.S. Rep. Sylvia Garcia, right, D-Texas, comforts Gloria Guillen, mother of missing Fort Hood soldier Pfc. Vanessa Guillen, during a news conference Tuesday outside the main entrance to the base. Commanders said they suspect foul play in Guillen's disappearance.

‘Foul play’ suspected in disappearance of Fort Hood soldier

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

FORT HOOD, Texas — Fort Hood commanders Tuesday told the family of Pfc. Vanessa Guillen and U.S. Rep. Sylvia Garcia that they suspect “foul play” led to the soldier’s disappearance two months ago.

“They are using the words now, ‘foul play,’ and they are looking for potential criminal activity,” Garcia, D-Texas, said during a news conference outside the main gate of the central Texas Army base. But they were not told what led investigators to this decision, she said.

“They were as forthcoming as they could be” considering there is still a criminal investigation underway, Garcia said.

Guillen, a 20-year-old Houston native, went missing between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. April 22 in the parking lot of 3rd Cavalry Regiment’s engineer squadron headquarters, where she worked in the armory room as a small arms repairer, according to the Army Criminal Investigation Command. Her car keys, barracks room key, identification card and wallet were later found there.

Garcia said she began working with the Guillens earlier this month and will continue working to “get this base the access and resources that they need.”

Before speaking with report-

ers, Guillen’s parents and two sisters, the family’s attorney, and Garcia met with Maj. Gen. Scott Effland, deputy commander of III Corps and Fort Hood, and Col. Ralph Overland, commander of Guillen’s regiment, for an update on the investigation.

The two officers provided the family a loose timeline of the soldier’s last known whereabouts, based on phone records, credit card records and interviews with other soldiers who saw her that day.

The meeting included an update on Overland’s command inquiry that began last week into sexual harassment allegations. The Guillen family provided him the name of a sergeant who Vanessa said her family had been harassing her on base. This person had even walked in on her while she was showering, Natalie Khawam, the family’s attorney, said.

The Guillen family also is calling for a congressional investigation into the base’s search efforts, believing protocols in place to prevent such an event were not followed and delayed an early start to finding the soldier.

“There are so many gaps and holes we demand Congress investigate for the family,” Khawam said. “I feel like we are not going to resolve this down here. We need the higher ups now.”

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Lawmakers look to force release of shipbuilding plan

House would restrict funding if 30-year projection is not submitted

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON— Defense Secretary Mark Esper would have his funding restricted if he does not release the Navy’s 30-year shipbuilding plan to Congress as required by law, according to a House subcommittee’s draft of the defense funding bill.

“This is trying to reinforce that point that we need to see the 30-year shipbuilding plan so that we can see what’s projected in the out year, what the strategy is,” an aide to the House Armed Services Committee’s subpanel on seapower and projection forces said Monday during a call with reporters.

The subcommittee’s draft of the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act would restrict 75% of Esper’s operation and maintenance funds until he submits the 30-year plan to Congress. The actual funding amount to be restricted will not be available until a draft from Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., the chairman of House Armed Services Committee, is published next week.

The 30-year shipbuilding plan is meant to be submitted to Congress along with the proposed Defense Department budget, allowing lawmakers to see how the Navy plans to build certain vessels over time with the funding. The Navy’s goal is to reach 355 or more battle force ships by 2030. But for fiscal year 2021, the Navy is requesting less shipbuilding money in order to put it toward operations and maintenance.

Esper had been reviewing the plan to compare it to the Navy’s 2020 Integrated Force Structure Assessment, former acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly told House lawmakers in February. The assessment details the Navy’s plans for the specific makeup of its fleet, such as how many aircraft carriers, submarines and destroyers the service needs to compete against Russia and China.

In February, Esper told the House Armed Services Committee that the delay in submitting the 30-year shipbuilding plan was because he wanted to give them “the right plan, a good plan.”

The subcommittee’s draft of NDA, which sets funding for the Defense Department, would also restrict money from being used to retire any Navy vessel until Esper releases the 2020 Integrated Force Structure Assessment.

Some House lawmakers were not happy with the Navy’s budget proposal in 2020 when service leaders tried to retire the USS Harry S. Truman halfway through the aircraft carrier’s operational life in order to reinvest the funds meant to refuel the ship’s nuclear reactor in other capabilities, such as unmanned ships.

For fiscal year 2021, which begins Oct. 1, the subcommittee’s draft calls for prohibiting the retirement of any aircraft carrier before its first refueling.

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USAF extends shaving exemption

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Airmen and space force personnel with razor bumps no longer need to apply for a shaving waiver every year after Air Force officials extended the exemption from regular shaving for those with the painful condition.

Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Dorothy Hogg authorized five-year shaving waivers for air and space professionals diagnosed with pseudofolliculitis barbae, the Latin name for the chronic skin condition commonly known as razor bumps, which are caused by ingrown facial hairs from frequent, close shaving, the Air Force said in a statement Tuesday.

Previously, waivers had to be updated annually.

The change was made based on “feedback from the field” and is intended to provide more time for skin to heal and prevent a recurrence, Air Force officials said. The red bumps associated with the condition, which is most common in African American men, can cause secondary infection and excessive scarring.

The longer shaving waivers remain valid regardless of a member’s deployment or duty station.

But they do not mean beards and other facial hair can be allowed to grow to any length. Rules that say facial hair cannot



COLVILLE McFEY/U.S. Air Force

An airman has his neck and face inspected during a shaving waiver course at Beale Air Force Base, Calif., in 2018. The Air Force has authorized a five-year shaving waiver for airmen and space force personnel who have been diagnosed with razor bumps.

exceed a quarter of an inch and must be natural — meaning no patterns or words can be shaved into it — still apply, the Air Force said. Grown-out facial hair also must not interfere with the wearing of protective equipment, such as gas masks.

The Navy last year stopped issuing permanent shaving waivers for sailors diagnosed with razor bumps after two Naval Safety Center reviews found beards interfered with the face seals of de-

vices such as respirators.

Sailors with razor bumps may obtain a temporary shaving waiver to grow a beard for up to 60 days while undergoing treatment for the skin condition.

Air Force personnel diagnosed with razor bumps receive instruction on proper shaving methods to prevent a recurrence, the Air Force said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Caitlin M. Kenney contributed to this report. svan.jennifer@stripes.com
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PACIFIC

Remains of 147 S. Korean troops head home

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — The remains of 147 South Korean service members killed in the Korean War began their journey home Tuesday during a repatriation ceremony in a hangar at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

All but one of the 147 South Korean-flag-draped boxes had been loaded onto a passenger jet prior to the ceremony, during which that remaining container was formally handed over to a representative of the United Nations, who in turn conferred it to a South Korean official.

The exchange of remains was the largest ever made between the two nations, which were allied during the Korean War that began June 25, 1950.

The remains of roughly 5,300 missing American service members are believed to be in North Korea, according to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, the U.S. entity tasked with recovering and identifying the nation's missing warfighters.

South Korean officials have already identified six sets of the 147 sets of remains, while the rest will undergo examination and identification in South Korea.

The remains were recovered during joint recovery operations in North Korea between 1990-2005 and a unilateral turnover by that country in 2018, DPAA officials said. They have been held at DPAA's Hawaii lab since their



South Korean officials cloak their national flag over a box holding the remains of a countryman killed in the Korean War during a repatriation ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, on Tuesday.

return.

"In Seoul, President Moon [Ja-in] will welcome these remains home in an official ceremony coinciding with the 70th anniversary of the onset of the Korean War," Adm. Phil Davidson, commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, said during the ceremony, which was sparsely attended due to coronavirus precautions.

The conflict, which lasted three years, was one in which "South Koreans and Americans fought bravely side by side to defend the values embodied in the established rules-based international

order, which was then in its very infancy," Davidson said.

South Korea is also set to repatriate six sets of remains of United Nations troops that were found during regular searches by South Korea's Ministry of National Defense Agency for KIA Recovery and Identification, also known as MAKRI.

Those six sets of remains, along with the 147 flown home from Hawaii, will be honored during a ceremony Thursday at K-16 Air Base near Seoul.

The six U.N. remains will then be sent for further identification

work at the DPAA laboratory in Hawaii after a send-off Friday at Osan Air Base, according to the United Nations Command.

The remains returned to South Korea on Tuesday were analyzed by scientists with DPAA and MAKRI during a joint forensic review conducted over the past few weeks leading up to the transfer.

"The Koreans have identified seven of the 147 remains going back to Korea," Jennie Jin, the lead for DPAA's Korea War Project, said Tuesday. "So, the seven families have been notified, and

they will be at the ceremony on the receiving end. One person was identified even as the Joint Forensic Review was happening in Hawaii. I'm so happy."

The Hawaii lab has identified about 180 American service members from the remains recovered from North Korea from 1990-2005 and another 62 from those returned in 2018, Jin said.

The remains of Americans and South Koreans were commingled, and scientists were unable to look at bones and determine ancestry unless complete skulls were intact, Jin said.

"With further analysis, we were able to figure out some of them are actually South Korean," she said.

The remains of 92 South Korean service members had been returned by the U.S. in three transfers as of 2018, which, with Tuesday's repatriation, makes for 239 remains "able to rest in the arms of their homeland," Park Jae Min, South Korea's vice minister of defense, said during the ceremony through a translator.

"The government and the people of [South Korea] are truly grateful for the opportunity to repatriate the remains of our heroes to the nation which they gave their lives on the eve of the 70th anniversary of the Korean War," he said. "The fact that we can now put a name to the 147 remains returning to their loved ones is truly overwhelming."

Stars and Stripes reporter Kim Ganiel contributed to this report.
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Retaliation: 'We remain ready to engage in dialogue with the North,' US official says

FROM FRONT PAGE

recently reinstalled along the Demilitarized Zone, the buffer zone that divides the peninsula, according to officials in Seoul.

Kim Jong Un presided over a preliminary meeting of the military commission of the ruling Workers' Party on Tuesday, according to the Korean Central News Agency.

The commission "took stock of the prevailing situation and suspended the military action plans against the South" that had been proposed by the general staff of the North Korean army, KCNA said in a brief report.

It also said the commission, which met via video conference, examined major policy decisions and documents "for further bolstering the war deterrent of the country" ahead of the fifth meeting of the party's seventh central military commission.

Maintaining readiness

South Korea's defense minister reacted cautiously, urging the North to "completely withdraw" its military action plans instead of just suspending them. Seoul has said it would respond strongly to any further

provocations.

"Regardless of the North Korean moves, we will continue to maintain a firm readiness posture," Jeong Kyong-doo told a parliamentary judiciary committee. He also confirmed reports that North Korea had removed the propaganda loudspeakers.

South Korea's Yonhap News Agency later reported that some North Korean propaganda outlets also had removed more than a dozen online stories that had denounced the South over the leafletting issue.

The spat was a stark reminder of the fragility of relations between the two Koreas 70 years after the war began with a North Korean invasion on June 25, 1950. The three-year conflict ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty, leaving the sides technically at war.

It was unclear why the North suddenly reversed its stance and issued the first public reference to Kim Jong Un in weeks. The 36-year-old leader's prolonged absences between sporadic appearances have prompted continued speculation about possible health problems, although U.S. and South Korean officials have dismissed major concerns.

Experts also suggested that Pyongyang may feel it had accomplished its goal of raising pressure on the South and wanted to avoid provoking a stronger reaction that could involve the United States.

"It is trying to test the water and watch Seoul's response while slowing down the tempo since Kim Jong Un issued her state-ment," said Lee Ho Ryung, a research fellow at the Korea Institute for Defense Analysis.

She also said it would be hard for North Korea to follow through with its threat to distribute leaflets criticizing South Korean President Moon Jae-in in the South because the rainy season has begun, making it difficult to get them across the border.

Good cop, bad cop?

Nathan Hunt, a specialist on North Korea who contributes to Jane's Intelligence Review, said it could also be an effort to boost the headline credentials of Kim Jong Un by showing the leader's younger sister and potential successor as a supporter of the military who only pulled back when ordered.

"This might be the brother and sister playing good cop, bad cop,

so as to help raise her standing among the military," Hunt said.

Kim Jong Un, who has emerged as the North's main point person on inter-Korean relations, accused the South Korean government of conniving with the anti-North activists to send the leaflets across the border in violation of past agreements.

She warned earlier this month that the liaison office would be demolished and said she would leave it up to the North Korean army "to decisively carry out the next action."

The army's general staff then threatened to redeploy troops to frontline areas in what would be a reversal of a 2018 military agreement with the South, and to support North Korean efforts to scatter the anti-Moon propaganda leaflets. State media showed photos of people producing the leaflets.

Door to diplomacy

The spat has raised fears of a new crisis that could pose another setback to stalled U.S.-led efforts to persuade the North to abandon its nuclear weapons.

Pyeongyang has conducted several short-range missile and artillery tests in recent months as

it expressed increasing frustration over the lack of diplomatic progress.

Marc Knapper, deputy assistant secretary of state for Korea and Japan, said Wednesday that "the door to diplomacy remains open."

"We remain ready to engage in dialogue with the North, and we remain committed to a diplomatic solution to address the nuclear and missile issues," he said during an online forum hosted by the New York-based Asia Society. "We have to work hand in hand with the South Koreans to do this."

He also said he wouldn't rule out the possibility that diplomacy could resume before the November presidential election, pointing out that it had happened during Bill Clinton's presidency.

"History has shown the North Koreans seem quite capable of engaging in an election year," he said, declining to go beyond that. "I've been proven wrong before when it comes to making predictions about what's going to happen."

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PACIFIC

7th Fleet flagship returns to Yokosuka after five months

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The 7th Fleet command ship USS Blue Ridge returned to its homeport here Wednesday after a five-month deployment amid the coronavirus pandemic.

After leaving Yokosuka in January, the crew made stops in Japan, South Korea and Thailand in its first month underway before port visits were canceled in response to the virus's spread.

The Blue Ridge typically makes numerous port visits during deployments, but it made very few this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. By comparison, the ship visited 11 ports in nine Indo-Pacific nations during its four-month deployment last year.

"COVID-19 has brought many challenges, but we have remained fully operational and continued to solidify our ties with our host nation of Japan and partnered allies throughout the region," Blue Ridge commander Capt. Craig Sicola said in a statement Wednesday, referring to the disease the coronavirus causes.

This year, the 50-year-old ship instead broke its days-at-sea record, tallying up 70 days in a row without a port visit, according to the Navy. The oldest operational ship in the Navy, the Blue Ridge's prior at-sea record of 64 days was set in 1972 during the Vietnam War.

The 223-year-old frigate USS Constitution is the Navy's oldest commissioned warship, but its mission is education and outreach

in Boston Harbor.

Sicola said the Blue Ridge crew used the extended time at sea to "further our training, enhance our underway capabilities and increase qualifications in preparation for the next underway period," according to the statement.

On this patrol, the Blue Ridge and its crew also worked with the amphibious assault ship USS America and its expeditionary strike group, the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt and its strike group and the fast-attack submarine USS Asheville, Sicola said.

The Blue Ridge made two port calls after the coronavirus outbreak was declared a global pandemic in March. It stopped in Okinawa on May 21 and in Guam on June 11 to allow sailors to stretch their land legs with social distancing and health protection measures in place.

Crews were allowed "Safe Haven" liberties where they could access specially designated areas on the piers and beaches, the Navy said. They were also given wireless internet access and opportunities to play sports during the port visits.

Sicola in his statement said his sailors showed "outstanding resiliency and teamwork" while navigating the unique challenges of this patrol.

The Blue Ridge is entering a scheduled maintenance period in Yokosuka, Wednesday's statement said.

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CHRISTIAN LOPEZ/Stars and Stripes

The 7th Fleet flagship USS Blue Ridge arrives at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Wednesday.



BRENTON POYSER/U.S. Navy

The littoral combat ship USS Gabrielle Giffords, right, trains with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force ships JS Kashima and JS Shimayuki in the South China Sea on Tuesday.

US, Japanese ships drill in South China Sea

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

The littoral combat ship USS Gabrielle Giffords joined two Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force ships for training in the contentious South China Sea on Tuesday, a Navy statement said.

The Navy vessel sailed with the training ships JS Kashima and JS Shimayuki to "emphasize the importance of communications and coordination while operating together," according to the statement.

"The opportunity to operate with our friends and allies at sea is incredibly important for our combined readiness and partnership," Expeditionary Strike Group 7 commander Rear Adm. Fred Kacher said in the statement.

The South China Sea, which

Beijing views as its own but the United States and other nations consider international waters, is wrought with tension as multiple countries — including Malaysia, the Philippines, China and Vietnam — dispute sovereignty over islands and reefs within it.

Since 2013, China has militarized 27 features in the region's Spratly and Paracel island chains in an effort to expand its presence and authority, according to the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative.

China asserts that foreign military vessels must ask for permission to sail within 12 nautical miles of the islands' shores. The U.S. regularly conducts patrols and freedom-of-navigation operations in the region to challenge those claims.

Japan has boosted its naval

presence in the South China Sea in recent years. A Ministry of Defense white paper in September said Japan should "proactively and independently strengthen" its security by increasing its presence in the disputed waters this year.

Aboard the Japanese ships were newly commissioned officers who are underway as part of the service's Training Cruise 2020 aimed at offering them "the opportunity to learn basic knowledge and skills as professional mariners," according to the statement.

While sailing close to one another, the U.S. and Japanese ships practiced communications and precision maneuvering and conducted a photo exercise.

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PACIFIC

Number of people treated after Kadena blaze rises

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Approximately 100 people were “affected by smoke and/or chlorine gas” released by a fire Monday at a Kadena Air Base hazardous materials warehouse on Okinawa, according to updated figures released Wednesday evening by the 18th Wing.

The base began its cleanup Wednesday, which includes a “thorough” investigation of the cause of Monday’s blaze as well as health and environmental monitoring, the wing said in a statement Wednesday. The fire destroyed the 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron’s Hazardous Materials Pharmacy.

Four Japanese government officials from the Okinawa Defense Bureau, which represents Japan’s Ministry of Defense on the island, visited the site Tuesday to see the recovery efforts and speak to the wing’s lead civil engineer about the blaze.

“At this time, the cause of the fire is still under investigation,” the statement said. “Emergency responders have been on the scene to ensure there are no safe-

ty risks to the base or local community and remain involved in recovery operations.”

The fire began at around 8:40 a.m. Monday at the warehouse south of Kadena’s airfield in the central part of the base, the wing said in statements earlier this week.

Thick plumes of smoke smothered areas near the fire and closed off roads as firefighters from 18th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire and Emergency Services worked to get it under control. The base evacuated an area 500 feet upwind and 2,000 feet downwind of the site.

No mutual aid was called, Wednesday’s statement said. The roof collapsed while firefighters battled the blaze.

Firefighters poured 600,000 gallons of water on the fire, a wing public affairs official told Stars and Stripes by phone Wednesday.

The water interacted with calcium hypochlorite stored in the warehouse and released the gas, according to the statement.

Calcium hypochlorite is commonly used in commercial bleaches, cleaning solutions and disinfectants for drinking water and wastewater purification sys-

tems and swimming pools, according to the National Institutes for Health.

Other unnamed hazardous materials were also on site.

“With the heavy rain on Monday and large amount of water used to extinguish the fire, runoff may have included residual hazardous materials that would have entered the storm drains,” the statement said. “The base’s civil engineer team monitored the storm water outfalls and did not note anything unusual in the run-off.”

Base civil engineers also monitored the sewage system but the runoff did not enter the system, it added.

The gas traveled no farther than 1,000 feet from the building, the statement said, citing the Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight on base.

At just after 2 p.m., the Kadena Facebook page announced the fire had been contained but that chlorine gas “particles” had been “released.”

Meanwhile, the 18th Medical Group canceled routine care at its facilities and encouraged anyone experiencing breathing or vision problems to seek treatment.



MATT BURKE/Stars and Stripes

Firefighters survey damage at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, on Tuesday, the day after a blaze engulfed a hazardous materials building and released chlorine gas into the air.

The wing announced Monday night that approximately 45 people had been “affected by smoke and/or chlorine gas.” Most suffered “mild symptoms” involving the airway or eye irritation and were treated and returned to duty.

That figure was revised to “approximately 100 individuals” Wednesday evening, according to the wing’s most recent statement. No Japanese were harmed by the gas, a defense bureau spokesman told Stars and Stripes on Tuesday.

Two firefighters were treated for heat-related injuries and were released, Wednesday’s statement said. Damages to the warehouse,

which was a total loss, have not yet been assessed.

“This gas will not affect the local residents around the base,” the defense bureau spokesman said Wednesday. “Also, 18th Wing confirmed that there are no abnormal findings in the water in the sewer pipes on base.”

Kadena’s environmental officials continue to monitor the area, the spokesman said.

It’s customary in Japan for some government officials to speak to the media on condition of anonymity.

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Misawa displays airpower in first bilateral ‘elephant walk’

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Thirty-one U.S. and Japanese military aircraft combined Tuesday for the first bilateral “elephant walk” at Misawa Air Base, a week after the installation reported its first coronavirus cases and ordered personnel to shelter in place.

The show of force included 12 Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons, 12 Japan Air Self-Defense Force F-35A Lightning II stealth fighters, two Navy EA-18G Growlers, a Navy C-12 Huron, a Navy P-8 Poseidon, two Air Force MC-130J Commando IIs and a JASDF CH-47 Chinook, the base said in a statement that day.

“Seeing our forces and our partners and allies taxi to the runway in one formation, as one fighting force, really brought home my last two years of command,” Col. Kristopher Struve, 35th Fighter Wing commander, said in the statement.

Two people tested positive after landing at Misawa on a U.S. government-chartered flight on June 15. Days earlier, officials confirmed that an undisclosed number of members of a transient aircrew, who also arrived on June 15, were infected.

In response, the base issued a 24-hour shelter-in-place order restricting everyone to their homes



CHINA SHOCK/U.S. Air Force

U.S. and Japanese aircraft participate in a show of force at Misawa Air Base, Japan.

if not working a mission-essential job. The order was lifted June 18, but many restrictions remain in place.

“Misawa members who live on base are still restricted to Misawa Air Base, and members who live off base will travel to and from Misawa Air Base di-

rectly,” base spokeswoman Capt. Lauren Linscott said in an email Wednesday.

Except for the MC-130Js, which came from Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, all aircraft involved in Tuesday’s drill are assigned to Misawa.

“This demonstration took the

work of many agencies and individuals across the base, and the 35th Fighter Wing is grateful to our partners for showcasing the amazing, combat-ready force available to our Indo-Pacific leaders if called upon during a crisis,” Struve said in the statement.

The event echoed similar re-

cent demonstrations at U.S. bases in Asia.

Last month, the 374th Airlift Wing at Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo conducted a “Samurai Surge” during which it paraded C-130J Super Hercules tactical airlifters, CV-22 Osprey tiltrotors and other aircraft at the home of U.S. Forces Japan.

A similar drill took place in mid-April at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, where the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt was sidelined by a coronavirus outbreak. It involved B-52 Stratofortress bombers, KC-135 Stratotankers, Navy MQ-4C and Air Force RQ-4 drones and a Navy MH-60S Knighthawk helicopter.

On Monday, U.S. Forces Japan commander Lt. Gen. Kevin Schneider praised the Yokota drill during a change-of-command ceremony for the 374th Airlift Wing, saying it answered those who may have questioned the wing’s ability to operate during the coronavirus pandemic.

“It didn’t go unnoticed,” he said.

Like Misawa, Andersen and Yokota recently reported new coronavirus cases among individuals who came to those installations from elsewhere.

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MILITARY

Kosovo-Serbia talks focusing on economy

US peacekeeping force not likely to leave western Balkans in the immediate future

By SLOBODAN LEKIC
Stars and Stripes

The battalion of U.S. peacekeepers in Kosovo is unlikely to withdraw from the western Balkans anytime soon, analysts have said ahead of U.S.-led talks aimed at ending a decadeslong standoff between Pristina and Belgrade.

U.S. organizers were already downplaying expectations for the talks between Serbia and Kosovo planned for Saturday in Washington when an international tribunal announced Wednesday that Kosovo President Hashim Thaci and nine others had been indicted for war crimes, stemming from clashes with ethnic Serbs during and after Kosovo's war of independence from 1998-99.

It was unclear Wednesday what the charges levied by the Hague-based Kosovo Specialist Chambers would mean for the talks, which Thaci had planned to attend.

Kosovo was a province of Serbia until a bloody crackdown by Serbian authorities against the ethnic Albanian majority triggered a war that left more than 10,000 dead and led to a 78-day, NATO bombing campaign of Serbia. NATO peacekeepers, including U.S. troops, were deployed to the province after Serbian forces withdrew.

The planned talks in Washington were going to be centered on trade, which the White House's point man said was a precursor to a political solution.

"As we have consistently said, we must first make progress on growing the economies. This is the focus," former U.S. ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell, whom President Donald Trump last year named special envoy for Serbia and Kosovo peace negotiations, tweeted last week.

"If either side is unsatisfied with the June 27 discussions then they will go back to the status quo after they leave Washington," Grenell said.

Maintaining the existing situation would include continuing one of the longest peacekeeping missions in the U.S. military's history. A U.S. infantry battalion composed of about 500 soldiers is part of NATO's 4,000-strong Kosovo Force, or KFOR. The battalion is currently drawn



ADAM WEHRE/U.S. Army National Guard

Staff Sgt. Barbara Shirley, crew chief for Kosovo Force Regional Command-East Task Force Aviation, stands ready as Blackhawk pilots run through their checks for a training flight on March 3 on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo.

from the Oregon Army National Guard and rotated in six-month deployments.

The U.S. and most European countries have recognized Kosovo's 2008 declaration of independence. But Belgrade, backed by its traditionally ally Russia and by China, has refused to accept it.

One of KFOR's main tasks now is, paradoxically, protecting members of the Serb minority.

While the talks could lay the groundwork for a future agreement, they are unlikely to have an immediate impact as the two sides dig in on their positions, some analysts have said.

A framework accord, under which Serbia would agree to recognize Kosovo in the next few years, would give "significant financial aid — up to 10 billion euros to Serbia and 7 billion to Kosovo," said Shkelzen Maliki, a former leader of Kosovo's Social Democratic Party, citing what he called "leaked reports."

But Serbia's President Aleksandar Vucic has rejected the suggestion of accepting the independence of Kosovo, which Belgrade considers a breakaway province. And Kosovo's Prime Minister Avdullah Hoti has vowed to oppose the transfer to Serbia of territories in Kosovo inhabited by



AMBERLEE BOVERNUS/U.S. Army National Guard

Kosovo Force Regional Command East personnel deliver goods to a medical facility May 14, in Ugljare (Ugljar), Kosovo. RC-E personnel assisted Kosovo Red Cross facilities in distributing 8 tons of flour and disinfectant alcohol to Kosovo schools and medical clinics.



MIGUEL RUZ/U.S. Army National Guard

Members of an explosive ordnance disposal team report to Kosovo Police reports of unexploded ordnance April 3 in Kosovo.

ethnic Serbs.

Vucic would not survive politically if he agreed to recognize Kosovo, which many Serbs consider the birthplace of their nation, said Zoran Kusovac, a security consultant in Belgrade.

"But if he can secure a deal where he could claim gains for Serbia, including substantial fi-

nancial injections and possibly full membership in the E.U., he might be able to come home with the foundations of an ultimate agreement," Kusovac said.

Others, however, said the main aim of the talks was to chalk up a foreign policy success for Trump.

If a deal is reached Saturday, it

would be promoted by the White House as a testament to Trump's "dealmaking skills — regardless of the substance of the deal," wrote Gorana Grgic, a lecturer in U.S. politics and foreign policy at the University of Sydney in Australia, on the War on the Rocks website.

"The president could use a photo op at the White House with the leaders of Serbia and Kosovo signing 'an historic accord' to distinguish himself from his predecessors, who were unable to bring peace between the two countries," she wrote.

Trump needs "a foreign policy success of any sort, even a minor one," wrote Tufts University professor of international relations Bruce Hitchens in an opinion piece on the Balkan Insight website.

"The administration's interest ... seems to be in a rushed accord that would allow for some sort of signing ceremony in the Rose Garden, in advance of the U.S. presidential election," he said.

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Afghanistan roadside bomb kills 6 civilians

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A roadside bombing killed at least six Afghan civilians traveling in a rickshaw in a northern province, an official said Wednesday. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

According to the interior ministry spokesman, Tariq Arian, the bombing in Jawzjan province

took place the previous evening when the rickshaw struck the roadside bomb in Marydjan district. One civilian was also wounded in the explosion.

Arian blamed Taliban insurgents for the attack. Afghanistan has seen a recent spike in violence, with most attacks claimed by the local affiliate of the Islamic State group. In early June, ISIS claimed responsibility for a bombing at a mosque in Kabul that killed two people and wounded eight.

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PACIFIC

Korean War veterans look back with pride

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

Retired Army Col. William Weber, a Chicago native and veteran of World War II, arrived in Korea in 1950 as a company commander with the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team soon after the fighting started.

By February 1951 he was headed home after being severely wounded by enemy mortar fire in a 12-hour battle to hold a hilltop position.

"The first time I got hit I lost part of my arm," he said. "A couple of hours later I lost part of my leg."

Weber, now 94, knew his wounds were grave but believed it was his duty to stay in command and prevent Chinese attackers from taking the hill.

"I had responsibility for my men," the three-war veteran said. "We were surrounded so evacuation of wounded personnel was not possible."

The Americans held the hill and by daylight the next morning the Chinese had been defeated, he said.

Weber was one of more than 5 million Americans who served in the Korean War, which lasted from 1950 to 1953. Thursday marks the 70th anniversary of the day when the North Korean People's Army crossed the 38th parallel into South Korea.

More than 2 million Korean War veterans are still alive today. Here are some of their memories.

'We were surrounded'

Nighttime bugle calls on Nov. 27, 1950, alerted New Yorker Charlie Rangel and his buddies that the enemy was near.

"We heard Chinese saying we were surrounded," recalled the former enlisted member of the 2nd Infantry Division and longtime congressman, now 90.

Chinese troops had crossed an icy river and dug into mountains overlooking the troops' position.

"To this day nobody has explained to me how the entire 8th Army was surrounded by the Chinese," Rangel said.

On Nov. 30, the Chinese



Courtesy of Charlie Rangel

Charlie Rangel served with the 2nd Infantry Division.

attacked.

"It was horns, bugles and countless Chinese and guns and screaming and yelling," he said. "There were dead Americans all around me."

Rangel was shot and blown out of a weapons carrier and found himself under the vehicle as the Chinese overran the position.

"I knew my life was over," he said.

But when Rangel came out

from under the truck, he found dozens of stunned members of his unit. Rangel climbed over a mountain and made his way back to United Nations lines.

"Forty people followed me, and three days later they were pinning a medal on me in the hospital," he recalled. He received a Bronze Star with "V" device for valor.

Rangel said he never had a bad day after Nov. 30, 1950, when so many of his comrades died needlessly.

When he came home from the war, he dedicated his life to civil rights and working in Congress as a Democrat from New York.

"When I talk to Koreans who want to honor me, I'm honest enough to say that in 1950 when I was called on a Sunday morning to go to Korea, I had no idea where Korea was," he said.

"When it was over, I thought the last thing I would want to do was return to that hellhole. Korea was flattened to the ground," he said.

It took some amazing people to rebuild South Korea through

hard work and technology into a powerful democracy and American ally, he said.

"Who knows what could have happened if South Korea had fallen to the Chinese, whether Japan would have been next or the Philippines," he said.

"You have to pay for democracy, and you have to make certain you keep democracy going, free and democratic, an example for the whole world," he said.

'Seoul was rubble'

Charles Garrod, 86, of Delaware, spent 18 months in Korea, from 1952 to 1953 as an enlisted Air Force radio maintainer with the 51st Fighter Interceptor Wing at Suwon.

It was his job to relay forward observers' warnings of "red air attacks" — using a public address system to tell troops to don lights and fires and man weapons stations.

"Thirty minutes later Chinese bombers would fly over us and

SEE VETERANS ON PAGE 9

Chinese-American Marines gave more than most in fight

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

The possibility of dying from friendly fire was a worry for Franklin Chang, one of a small group of Chinese-American Marines who fought in the Korean War.

The rifleman feared U.S. forces might mistake him for one of the communists, he said in a June 8

telephone interview from his home in Honolulu.

Chang, 87, recalled patrolling ahead of other troops and warning them to shoot off to the side if

they saw him drop.

"At that time the enemy were stripping uniforms off our dead and wearing them because they were very poorly equipped," he said.

The possibility of being a target for other American troops "when they see me with a Chinese face wearing a Marine uniform," was a concern, Chang said.

Back in the rear, the Chinese Marines were sometimes mistaken for members of the Korean Service Corps — South Korean civilians who carried food and

ammunition to troops in the field and often wore U.S. uniforms.

"They used to try to kick me out of the chow line," Chang recalled, adding that people were surprised when he answered back in English.

'They were the enemy'

Perhaps the most famous Chinese-American Marine to serve in the conflict is the late Maj. Kurt Chew-Een Lee. The enlisted Marine in World War II became the Marines' first Asian-American officer after earning his commission in 1946, according to his 2014 obituary in the Los Angeles Times after he died at 88.

"I wanted to dispel the notion about the Chinese being meek, bland and obsequious," he told the newspaper in 2010.

Lee was an infantry platoon leader during the battle at the Chosin Reservoir in December 1950. He was wounded more than once and was awarded the Navy Cross for "extraordinary heroism" and Silver Star.

"To me, it didn't matter whether or those were Chinese, Korean, Mongolian, whatever" they were the enemy," Lee said of the communists.

'Young and foolish'

Chang, the son of a Chinese immigrant and a San Francisco-



Courtesy photo

Franklin Chang is one of six Chinese-Americans who served with the 1st Marines during the Korean War.

born Chinese mother, enlisted in 1950.

"I was young and foolish," he said. "I had seen too many movies."

As a youngster he'd spent some time in China after his father moved the family back during the Depression. They returned to the United States after war broke out between Japan and China, he said.

In Korea, he was sent to the 1st Marine Division as a replacement and found himself standing at attention in front of a commander who didn't want to send him or another Chinese-American Marine to the front line.

"I said, 'No sir, we are going to go up and join our companies,'"

he recalled.

Six Chinese-Americans served with the 1st Marines during the Korean War, Chang said.

"I knew all of them," he said. "One was from New York, another was from Pennsylvania and the rest of us were from the San Francisco Bay area. They've all passed on now and I'm the last one standing."

Seven decades after hostilities began — Thursday marks the 70th anniversary of the Korean War — Chang recalls fighting in the mountains and manning observation posts near the front line that were hit by enemy fire each night.

His Chinese heritage wasn't that helpful in dealing with the

communists, he said.

"I didn't speak any Chinese because I was raised American and went to an all-American school," he said.

His final post in Korea was overlooking the village of Panmunjom, where an armistice agreement was reached July 27, 1953.

"I used to watch trucks come down from North Korea and trucks come up from the south for meetings in Quonset huts," he recalled. "They just sat at the tables and looked at each other for 15 to 20 minutes and left. They never really talked. The United Nations had won the war already."

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PACIFIC

Veterans: Feelings of pride remain

FROM PAGE 8

bomb a fake base made up of inflatable aircraft and buildings several miles south," he said.

Garrod's last memory of the war is of walking through South Korea's battered capital.

"I had such a dispirited view because there was almost nothing standing. Seoul was rubble," he said.

He remembered the Korean people as always struggling, in trouble and living in fear.

"When I came back in 2007 and saw Seoul as it is today, my mind couldn't get around it. It went from rubble to magnificent," he said.

After the armistice

Jody McLead, 89, a retired Air Force noncommissioned officer, arrived in South Korea in 1953, shortly after the armistice.

He was assigned to the 310th Fighter Bomber Squadron, which was soon flying escorts for prisoners of war returning to the north, he said.

The F-84 Thunderjets flown by the squadron had seen extensive service during the war. They had plenty of battle damage, and South Korea was littered with unexploded ordnance, McLead said.



ASHLEY ROWLAND/Stars and Stripes

Charles Garrod spent 18 months in Korea, from 1952 to 1953.

Almost seven decades later, the former airman is still working in South Korea, as a contractor issuing specialized tools to mechanics at Camp Humphreys. He's seen so much change over the years.

"The Koreans have really created a nice place to live," he said.

"The Korean War created a situation that needed assistance and America and our allies came forth to do it."

'Obligation to protect'

Weber went on to fight in the Vietnam War during his 38-year Army career. Seven decades later he's convinced that America did the right thing getting involved in Korea.

A nation must choose how it will address issues elsewhere in the world, whether it will remain aloof or become involved, he said.

"The Korean War was one that as a nation we became involved to prevent the spread of Communism into free areas of the world," he said. "It wasn't that the U.S., per se, was threatened by the actions of the Chinese communists and the Russians. We had an obligation to protect the people of South Korea. It was important that the free world took a stand against armed aggression."

The great tragedy, he said, is that the Korean people, with thousands of years of history, remain divided.

"When I look at it from the standpoint of history, I can conclude that this conflict we were involved in was justified in that the result was a betterment for the world at large and in particular, the people we were defending," he said.

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Courtesy of William Weber

In 1946, William Weber was a junior Army officer and World War II veteran. Four years later, he was fighting in Korea.

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STARS AND STRIPES

VIRUS OUTBREAK

First vaccine trial in Africa begins

By CARA ANNA
Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — Africa's first participation in a COVID-19 vaccine trial started Wednesday as nervous volunteers received injections, while officials said the continent of 1.3 billion people cannot be left behind.

The large-scale trial of the vaccine developed at the University of Oxford in Britain is being conducted in South Africa, Britain and Brazil. South Africa has nearly one-third of Africa's confirmed cases with more than 106,000, including more than 2,100 deaths. The country late Tuesday reported its biggest one-day death toll of 111.

"I feel a little bit scared but I want to know what is going on with this vaccine so that I can tell my friends and others what is going on with the study," one of the vaccine trial volunteers, Junior Mhlongo, said in Johannesburg.

The African continent now has nearly 325,000 cases as countries loosen restrictions under economic pressure from citizens who say they have to feed their families. Shortages of testing materials and medical supplies remain a problem as Africa could become the world's next hot spot.

The pandemic was delayed in Africa — but is picking up speed very quickly," the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention chief John Nkomo said Wednesday, with a steep increase in the number of cases and deaths.

"Unless we act now, Africa

is at risk of being left behind on the global vaccine," he warned a continental discussion and urged that local manufacturing and scientific expertise play a key role.

Cameron, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and South Africa all have highly developed clinical trial capabilities, said Salim Abdool Karim, chair of South Africa's ministerial advisory committee for COVID-19.

Many other sub-Saharan African countries also have clinical trial capacity, said Daniel Bausch, director of the UK Public Health Rapid Support Team.

"We're not only needing but capable of participating" as the world races for a vaccine, South Africa's Health Minister Zweli Mkhize said.

African leaders have been outspoken about the continent being elbowed out in the intense global competition for medical supplies in this pandemic, as well as what the World Health Organization's Africa chief, Matshidiso Moeti, called the "distortion of the global market for key items."

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus urged that the initial supply of any COVID-19 vaccine be deployed where it's most needed, rather than based on the "ability to pay."

Tedros also announced that as of this week, all 54 of Africa's countries now have the lab capacity to test for the coronavirus.

In February, just two African nations could test for the virus. The continent's first virus case was reported on Feb. 14.

VA cases jump in June

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs started the month with a hopeful milestone — fewer than 1,000 patients remained sick with the coronavirus, the lowest case count since March.

In recent days, however, the number of cases has again climbed past 2,000. On Tuesday, 2,455 VA patients had active cases of the virus, an increase of 662, or 37%, from June 18. Since June 2 — the day the number of cases fell below 1,000 — there's been a 146% increase in active cases.

The VA attributes the surge to an increase in testing. The department is now testing an average of 3,863 people every day, said VA Press Secretary Christina Noel. Last month, the agency administered an average of 2,745 tests each day.

However, the department also said it's seeing clusters of the coronavirus in the areas of the

U.S. that have become new hot spots, particularly Texas, Arizona and Florida.

The Florida Antonio hospital topped the list Tuesday for the highest prevalence of the virus among more than 150 VA facilities nationwide. Its total cases more than doubled since last week. On Tuesday, the hospital reported 162 cases, up from 79 on June 18. Houston and the third-most cases, with 99.

In Phoenix, the VA hospital reported 135 active cases Tuesday, up 57% since June 18. Southern Arizona was among the 10 VA hospitals with the highest number of active cases after remaining low on the list since the start of the pandemic.

Three VA hospitals in Florida — Bay Pines, Orlando and Tampa — were also among those with the highest number of active cases. Bay Pines, with 80 active cases, had experienced a 20% increase since June 18.

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EMILIO MORENATTI/AP

Isabel Perez Lopez, 96, reacts behind a plastic film screen during a Monday visit of her daughter, Beatriz Segura, 67, at a nursing home in Barcelona, Spain. At the height of Spain's coronavirus outbreak, nursing homes locked out visitors to try to shield their residents from the virus killing so many elderly people. One home in Barcelona has allowed family visits to resume through plastic screens.

Virus: Infections on the rise in young adults

FROM FRONT PAGE

understands the pent-up desire to get back to normal as the U.S. begins emerging from months of stay-at-home orders and business shutdowns. But that has "to be a gradual step-by-step process and not throwing caution to the wind," he said.

"Plan A, don't go in a crowd. Plan B, if you do, make sure you wear a mask," Fauci said.

Arizona reported a new daily record of nearly 3,600 additional coronavirus infections Tuesday. Arizona emerged as a COVID-19 hot spot after Republican Gov. Doug Ducey lifted his stay-home orders in mid-May. Last week he allowed cities and counties to require masks in public places and many have done so.

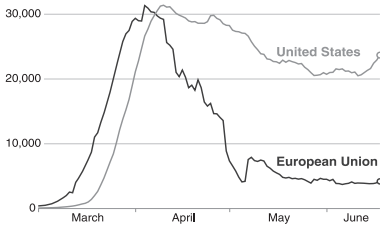
Texas surpassed 5,000 new cases for a single day for the first time — just days after it eclipsed 4,000 new cases for the first time — as America's largest pediatric hospital began taking adult patients to free up bed space in Houston. The infection rate in Texas has doubled since late May. And Nevada surpassed a record one-day increase for the fourth time in the past eight days. Other states also were experiencing worrisome surges, including Louisiana, Utah and South Carolina.

Another worrisome trend: an increase in infections among young adults. Fauci said while COVID-19 tends to be less severe in younger people, some of them do get very sick and even die. And younger people also may be more likely to show no symptoms yet still spread the virus.

If people say, "I'm young, I'm healthy, who cares?" you should care, not only for yourself but for the impact you might have" on

Coronavirus cases in the United States did not fall as much as in the European Union

Seven-day rolling average of new coronavirus cases, March 1 to June 18



SOURCES: Johns Hopkins University, The Washington Post NOAA AOM-NOAA/Stars and Stripes

sickening someone more vulnerable, Fauci said.

Cases were also surging in other parts of the world. India reported a record daily increase of nearly 16,000 new cases. Mexico, where testing rates have been low, also set a record with more than 6,200 new cases.

But China appears to have tamed a new outbreak of the virus in Beijing.

In China, an outbreak that has infected more than 200 people in the capital this month appeared to be firmly waning. China on Wednesday reported 12 cases, down from 22 the day before. Beijing reported seven new cases, down from 13.

Officials in Beijing said they tested more than 2.4 million people between June 12 and June 22. That's more than 10% of the capital's population of about 20 million.

Authorities began testing people at food markets and in the areas around them. They expanded that to include restaurant staff and the city's 100,000 delivery workers. China also said it used big data to find people who had been near markets for testing, without specifying how.

The vast majority have tested negative, though one courier delivering groceries from supermarkets tested positive.

A single inflatable mobile lab in one district was capable of conducting 30,000 tests a day, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

South Korea, which successfully tamed its first wave of infections, is seeing another rise. While the first outbreak was centered in its fourth-largest city, the current outbreak is in the Seoul region, where most South Koreans live. Authorities reported 51 cases Wednesday. Its increase of 40 to 50 cases every day over the past two weeks comes amid increased public activity and eased attitudes on social distancing.

In India, the densely populated cities of Mumbai and New Delhi have been hardest hit. The country has reported more than 450,000 cases of the virus, including more than 14,000 deaths.

Mexico reported nearly 800 new deaths on Wednesday. The country has recorded more than 190,000 cases and more than 23,000 deaths, although officials acknowledge both are undercounts due to extremely low testing rates.

Worldwide, more than 9.2 million people have contracted the virus, including more than 477,000 who have died, according to figures compiled by Johns Hopkins University.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Tokyo reports highest daily tally since early May

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Japan's capital city reported 55 new coronavirus cases Wednesday, the highest number since Prime Minister Shinzo Abe lifted a state of emergency there on May 25.

Earlier in the day Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike warned reporters the city would record "quite a large number" of new cases after a cluster of infections was discovered at an office building, according to a Reuters news report.

Tokyo has said it could reimpose restrictions if new daily cases exceed 50, something that hasn't happened since early May.

U.S. military bases in Japan, including several in the Tokyo area, have eased restrictions in recent weeks but remain under a public health emergency imposed by U.S. Forces Japan commander Lt. Gen. Kevin Schneider on April 6 that's set to expire July 14. All installations bar service members from leisure trips to central Tokyo.

Compared to the United States or Europe, Japan has seen relatively few cases of the deadly disease — just over 17,000 and under 1,000 deaths, Toho University Prof. Kazuhiro Tateda, an infectious disease expert, told reporters during a recent teleconference hosted by the Foreign Press Center in Tokyo.

Worldwide, there have been more than 9 million infections and more than 477,000 deaths. The U.S. has had over 2.3 million infections and more than 120,000 deaths, according to Johns Hopkins University.

Japan's relative success has come without mandatory lockdowns, although the country did enforce a national state of emergency on April 16 that was lifted

in some prefectures in mid-May and for the entire country May 25.

"We passed the first wave of infections, but we still have a concern about the second wave of infection," Tateda said.

The fact that coronaviruses are often seasonal suggests that number of new infections will remain low during the summer, he said. Japan's health care system has been preparing beds, supplies and personnel to deal with a second wave, he said.

Areas where there is a risk of contracting the virus include pleasure boats, taxis, long distance buses, gyms, bars, massage parlors, karaoke bars, nightlife districts and medical institutions, Tateda added.

Especially risky are "places where people speak in loud voices," he said.

The frequent use of face masks may be one of the key factors in Japan's low rate of infection, Tateda added.

"There had always been this culture in Japan for people to wear masks, especially during winter, in response to influenza outbreaks or hay-fever," he said.

Small clusters of the virus are still emerging in Japan and there is debate about when a second wave might reemerge necessitating more controls, he said.

It's clear, however, that people need to adapt their lifestyle to live with the disease, Tateda said. This includes social distancing, mask-wearing, takeout food, video conferences and ventilation.

"It might be difficult to follow such a lifestyle, but each citizen must use his imagination and creativity to pursue both caution as well as freedom," he said.

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City of Richland, Wash.

Former defense secretary and retired Marine Corps general Jim Mattis speaks about the coronavirus in this screenshot of a video released by the city of Richland, Wash., on Monday.

Mattis urges people to wear face coverings and 'work together'

By JOSEPH DITZLER
Stars and Stripes

Former defense secretary and retired Marine Gen. Jim Mattis has appeared in a pandemic public service announcement urging listeners in his hometown to wear face coverings.

"I'm here to talk about that nasty little virus, COVID," he says in a video released Monday by the central Washington city of Richland, near the Oregon border. COVID-19 is the disease caused by the coronavirus. "We got introduced to it about six months ago, and it's clear this little bugger is not going away on its own."

Mattis, a blue bandana around his neck, called on his "friends

and neighbors" to cover their faces in public and to heed the advice of Dr. Amy Person, a county health official, to achieve Washington Gov. Jay Inslee's plan for reopening the state.

The video was also posted on the KXLY website, the TV station that serves nearby Spokane, Wash., and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Mattis is a Richland native.

He served as defense secretary under President Donald Trump from January 2017 to January 2019, after a long Marine Corps career that included command of Marines in Afghanistan and Iraq and overseeing all American troops in the Middle East as chief of U.S. Central Command.

Mattis resigned from his defense secretary post in late December 2018 following Trump's decision to withdraw U.S. forces from Syria. The president insisted Mattis had been fired. In a widely publicized open letter published June 3 in the wake of civil rights protests, Mattis wrote that "Donald Trump is the first president in my lifetime who does not try to unite the American people — does not even pretend to try. Instead he tries to divide us."

Trump hit back with a series of tweets in which he called Mattis "the world's most overrated General."

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US citizens likely to be left out as Europe reopens its borders

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Americans are unlikely to be allowed into Europe when the Continent reopens its borders next week, due to how the coronavirus pandemic is flaring in the United States and President Donald Trump's ban on Europeans entering the U.S.

European nations appear on track to reopen their borders between each other by July 1, and their representatives in Brussels are now debating what virus-related criteria should apply when lifting border restrictions to the outside world that were imposed in March.

In recommendations to EU na-

tions on June 11, the European Commission said "travel restrictions should not be lifted as regards third countries where the situation is worse" than the average in the 27 EU member countries plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

That is likely to rule out the U.S., where new coronavirus infections have surged to the highest level in two months, according to figures compiled by Johns Hopkins University. After trending down for well over a month, new U.S. cases have risen for more than a week.

The U.S. on Tuesday reported 34,700 new cases of the virus, raising its total to more than 2.3 million and over 121,000 dead —

the most anywhere in the world. The virus outbreaks in Brazil, India and Russia are remarkably high too, and it's also unlikely that the EU will let their citizens in.

In contrast, aside from a notable new outbreak tied to a slaughterhouse in western Germany, the virus's spread has slowed notably across the EU and particularly in the 26 nations that make up Europe's visa-free travel zone known as the Schengen area, which more than 15 million Americans visit each year.

For the EU's executive arm, the key criteria for opening up to the outside world should include the number of new infections per 100,000 population — the exact

ceiling is up for debate — and the country's overall response to the pandemic, in terms of testing, surveillance, treatment, contact tracing and reporting cases.

But more than this, the country should lift its own travel restrictions for Europeans from all EU and Schengen nations, the commission said, adding "it cannot be applied selectively."

Brussels fears opening up to countries outside in an ad hoc way could lead to the reintroduction of border controls between nations inside the Schengen area, once again threatening Europe's cherished principle of free movement, which allows people and goods to cross borders without checks.

This principle of reciprocity on its own should rule out U.S. citizens, at least initially. The aim is to revise the list of acceptable countries every two weeks based on developments.

In a decree on March 11, Trump suspended the entry of all people in the Schengen area. More than 10 million Europeans visit the U.S. each year.

"The potential for undetected transmission of the virus by infected individuals seeking to enter the United States from the Schengen Area threatens the security of our transportation system and infrastructure and the national security," Trump's proclamation said.

NATION



CURTIS COMPTON, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP

Tomika Miller, the wife of Rayshard Brooks, weeps while holding their 1-year-old daughter, Dream, during his funeral in Ebenezer Baptist Church on Tuesday in Atlanta.

Crowds mourn Rayshard Brooks at church where MLK preached

By KATE BRUMBACK
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Scores of mourners Tuesday paid their final respects to Rayshard Brooks at the Atlanta church where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. used to preach, taking part in a funeral filled with historical echoes and a tragic sense that Black America has been through this all too many times before.

"Rayshard Brooks is the latest high-profile casualty in the struggle for justice and a battle for the soul of America. This is about

him, but it is so much bigger than him," the Rev. Raphael Warnock, senior pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church, told the crowd, less than two weeks after the Black man was shot twice in the back by a white Atlanta police officer following a struggle in a fast-food parking lot.

Warnock recited a long list of names of Black people who died at the hands of police in recent years, including Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Philando Castile and George Floyd, lamenting: "Sadly, we've gotten too much

practice at this."

Brooks' widow, Tomika Miller, dressed in white, sat surrounded by family and friends. Former state lawmaker Stacey Abrams and Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, both of whom have been mentioned as potential running mates for Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden, were among the mourners.

Most people dressed all in white, while some wore T-shirts with Brooks' picture. Nearly everyone wore masks to protect against the coronavirus.

Senate Democrats vote down policing measure from GOP

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Republican policing bill hit a roadblock Wednesday as Senate Democrats voted against it as inadequate, leaving the parties to decide whether to negotiate a compromise or walk away despite public outcry over the killings of Black Americans.

The measure threatens to turn the nationwide protests over the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others into another moment that galvanizes the nation but leaves lawmakers unable to act. Common ground is not out of reach.

But the legislation is stalled, for now, with Democrats refusing to agree to open debate as they push for greater changes in police tactics and accountability.

"If you don't think we're right, make it better, don't walk away," implored Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, the only Black Republican senator, and the author of the GOP bill.

Yet the outlook is deeply uncertain with Congress unable to swiftly respond even as the pub-

lic demands policing changes. Much as lawmakers have failed to act during times of crisis on gun control or immigration changes there's a familiar standoff despite broad support. An Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll shows almost all Americans support some degree of criminal justice changes.

The GOP's Justice Act is seen by Republicans and Democrats as a starting point in the broader debate over how best to change policing practices as demonstrations in cities large and small focus on law enforcement and racial injustice. It would create a national database of police use-of-force incidents, restrict police chokeholds and set up new training, procedures and commissions to study race and law enforcement.

The package from Republicans is not as sweeping as a Democratic proposal, which mandates many of the changes and would hold police liable to damages in lawsuits. There are similarities on some issues, lawmakers say, but also vast differences.

With student gathering, Trump gets a more boisterous crowd

Associated Press

PHOENIX — It wasn't quite one of his signature big-stadium rallies.

But President Donald Trump drew something closer to the jam-packed audience of political supporters he's been craving as hundreds of young conservatives filled a Phoenix megachurch Tuesday to hear his call for them to get behind his reelection effort.

The crowded Dream City Church for the gathering of Students for Trump offered a starkly different feel compared to Trump's weekend rally in Tulsa, Okla., his first of the coronavirus era, which drew sparser attendance.

Trump hailed the "patriotic young Americans who stand up tall for America and refuse to



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

Supporters of President Donald Trump applaud as he speaks at the Students for Trump conference at Dream City Church in Phoenix.

kneel to the radical left.

"You are the courageous warriors standing in the way of what they want to do and their goals," he told the boisterous crowd. "They hate our history. They hate

our values, and they hate everything we prize as Americans."

Trump was looking to regain campaign momentum after Tulsa, which was supposed to be a sign of the nation's reopening

and a show of political force. Instead, it generated thousands of empty seats and swirling questions about the president's campaign leadership and his case for another four years in office.

The low turnout sharpened the focus on Trump's visit to Arizona, which doubles as both a 2020 battleground state and a surging coronavirus hot spot.

With the Phoenix event, which was organized by Turning Point Action, a group chaired by Trump ally Charlie Kirk, the president hoped to turn attention — at least momentarily — away from surging coronavirus infections in huge swaths of the South and West, his slumping poll numbers and a virus-ravaged economy.

His address was check-off of typical Trump lines — boasts about television ratings, ridicule of his likely Democratic presi-

dential opponent Joe Biden and sharply worded resentments over China's handling of the coronavirus crisis. As he did in Oklahoma, Trump referred to the virus as "kung flu," a pejorative term that Asian Americans say is racist.

Throughout his daylong trip to Arizona, which included a visit to the U.S.-Mexico border, the COVID-19 pandemic shadowed Trump.

The Democratic mayor of Phoenix made clear she did not believe Trump's speech could be safely held in her city — and urged the president to wear a face mask.

But Trump has adamantly refused to wear a mask in public, instead turning it into a red-vs.-blue cultural issue. Polling suggests Republicans are far less likely to wear face coverings than Democrats.



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STARS AND STRIPES

NATION

NC, Ky. candidates opposed by Trump win primaries

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Voters rebuffed President Donald Trump and nominated two Republicans he opposed to House seats from North Carolina and Kentucky on Tuesday. Calls in higher-profile races in Kentucky and New York faced days of delay as swamped officials count mountains of mail-in ballots.

In western North Carolina, GOP voters picked investor Madison Cawthorn, 24, over Trump-backed real estate agent Lynda Bennett. The runoff was for the seat vacated by GOP Rep. Mark Meadows, who resigned to become Trump's chief of staff and joined his new boss in backing Bennett.

Kentucky Republican Rep. Thomas Massie, a libertarian-minded maverick who often clashes with GOP leaders, was renominated for a sixth House term. Trump savaged Massie in March as a "disaster for America" who should be ejected from the party after he forced lawmakers to return to Washington during a pandemic to vote on a huge economic relief package.

Cawthorn, who uses a wheelchair following an accident, will



TIMOTHY D. EASLEY/AP

Voters waited in line Tuesday to cast their ballots in the Kentucky primary in Lexington, Ky. Rep. Thomas Massie was renominated for a sixth House term despite President Donald Trump's opposition.

meet the constitutionally mandated minimum age of 25 when the next Congress convenes. Cawthorn has said he's a Trump supporter, and Massie is strongly conservative. Still, their victories were an embarrassment to a president whose own reelection campaign has teetered recently.

As states ease voting by mail

because of the coronavirus pandemic, a deluge of mail-in ballots and glacially slow counting procedures made delays inevitable. That torturous wait seemed a preview of November, when more states will embrace mail-in voting and officials warn that uncertainty over who is the next president could linger for days.

Kentucky usually has 2% of its returns come from mail ballots. This year officials expect that figure to exceed 50%, and over 400,000 mail ballots were returned by Sunday.

In the day's marquee contests, two African American candidates with campaigns energized by nationwide protests for racial justice were challenging white Democratic establishment favorites for the party's nominations.

First-term state legislator Charles Booker was hoping a late surge would carry him past former Marine fighter pilot Amy McGrath for the Democratic Senate nomination from Kentucky. And in New York, political newcomer Jamal Bowman was seeking to derail House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Eliot Engel's bid for a 17th term.

In Kentucky, many counties including Jefferson, the state's largest, faced piles of mail-in ballots and reported no results. The Associated Press doesn't expect to call the McGrath-Booker race until June 30, when Kentucky plans to release additional tallies.

The AP was also delaying its call in New York's Engel-Bowman race, pending additional vote

tallies.

In other contests, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky easily won the Republican nomination for a seventh Senate term and will be favored in November against McGrath or Booker.

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., won renomination, cementing her rise from obscurity to progressive icon status when she ousted Democratic Rep. Joe Crowley, on track to become speaker, from the New York City district.

In Virginia, retired Army Col. Daniel Gade won the GOP Senate nomination but seems certain to lose to Democratic Sen. Mark Warner in November. Republican Scott Taylor will face Democratic Rep. Elaine Luria in a rematch between two Navy veterans in a Virginia Beach district from which she toppled him in 2018.

Voters endured 90-minute waits in Kentucky's second-largest city, Lexington, and social media posts showed long lines in New York's Westchester County deep into the evening. Yet overall, the day's problems seemed less widespread than in recent elections in Georgia and Nevada, where some people stood in line for hours.

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Transportation

944

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Dead iguana found in pizza joint's freezer

FL WEST PALM BEACH — File it under pizza toppings only offered in Florida. State inspectors found an 80-pound iguana stashed in the freezer at a local pizza joint.

Pizza Mambo in West Palm Beach was forced to close for a day last week following the inspection by the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

An employee told the South Florida Sun Sentinel that the reptile was given as a personal gift to the owner. It was stored in a separate freezer away from the restaurant's food and was immediately trashed after they were informed it was a violation.

Sword missing from Revolutionary War statue

VT BENNINGTON — A bronze sword is missing from the statue of a commander who helped win the Battle of Bennington during the Revolutionary War.

The administrator at the state-owned Bennington Battle Monument said a passerby told her the sword was missing from the statue of New Hampshire General John Stark, the Bennington Banner reported.

Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer Laura Trieschmann said there was nothing to indicate the sword was taken as a form of protest against historical figures similar to what has been happening across the country.

Man wins \$4M lottery scratch game, again

MI SOUTH ROCKWOOD — For the second time, a southeastern Michigan man has won a \$4 million lottery game, officials said.

Mark Clark of South Rockwood scratched a ticket with a coin that was given to him by his late father about 10 years ago. They often fished together after Clark won a different \$4 million instant game in 2017.

"You don't think you'll win millions once, and you definitely never think it would happen twice," Clark, 50, said.

Clark chose a lump sum of about \$4 million instead of taking \$4 million in payments over time.

Human scalp discovered in campground

MO JOPLIN — Authorities are investigating after a human scalp was discovered in a Joplin campground.

Newton County Sheriff Chris Jennings said the owner of the Holly Haven Campground on the southwest side of Joplin found the scalp near a pond. The Joplin Globe reports.

Cadaver dogs and a dive team were sent to the scene but found nothing. The scalp has been taken to the Missouri State Highway Patrol crime lab for analysis.

Jennings said the scalp was probably dragged to the campground by animals.



RUSS DILLINGHAM, (LEWISTON, MAINE) SUN JOURNAL/AP

Restoring, to remember

Tattoo artist Nate Howard paints the tail section of a jet used during the Vietnam war Monday at the Veterans Memorial Park in Lewiston, Maine. The former Air National Guard Corsair jet is being restored to its original camouflage after its reassembly by volunteers who worked to secure it from a Montana airfield. Veteran Jerry DeWitt raised funds to display the plane so community members can see equipment that was used to fight a war, and to serve as a remembrance to veterans for their military service and friends who didn't survive the war.

The sheriff said the hair on the scalp was braided. But hair color and gender will have to be determined by the lab.

Airport ordered to pay for noise violations

CO DENVER — A judge ordered Denver International Airport to pay \$33.5 million for noise violations that affected nearby neighborhoods during a three-year period starting in 2014.

Jefferson County District Judge Christie Bachmeyer ruled that DIA did not properly monitor aircraft noise, violating an inter-governmental agreement with Adams County dating back to the late 1980s, The Denver Post reported. The ruling was made public Monday.

Bachmeyer said the airport must now pay \$500,000 for each of the 67 violations over the three-year period from 2014 through 2016.

Overheated hikers, river runner rescued

AZ GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK — Grand Canyon National Park rangers had to rescue a river runner

THE CENSUS

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The approximate number of shipping containers that fell overboard into the ocean near Hilo, Hawaii, the U.S. Coast Guard said. Nine of the 40-foot shipping containers were found, the Coast Guard said. The Coast Guard is investigating and shipping company Young Brothers is working with a salvage team to locate and recover as many containers as possible. The barge was traveling from Honolulu, said Chris Martin, Young Brothers director of terminal operations.

ner and several hikers who were overcome by the heat recently.

Phantom Ranch rangers responded to a river runner experiencing heat illness and fatigue on a Colorado River trip.

They said the river runner drank too much water, leading to hyponatremia.

The park's helicopter and ambulance transported the patient to a Flagstaff hospital.

The next day, Indian Garden rangers responded to a hiker having heat stroke on the Bright Angel Trail.

University police search for statue vandals

UT PROVO — Brigham Young University police were searching for the people who vandalized an on-campus statue of Brigham Young.

Campus Police Lt. Rich Christianson said surveillance video

indicated there were two suspects involved but police are still investigating, The Daily Herald reported.

The vandals poured red latex paint over the front of the statue in Provo, police said.

The word "racist" was written in spray paint across the pedestal beneath the statue of the university's namesake.

The sign outside of the Abraham O. Smoot Administration Building was also vandalized with a red "X" in spray paint.

Man with sword dies after being shocked

IA NEVADA — A man who was reportedly knocking on doors and carrying a sword died in Nevada after being shocked with a stun gun.

Nevada police said officers were called at 2:44 a.m. to check reports of a man walking up and

down a street, carrying a sword and knocking on doors.

Nevada officers, who were joined by Story County sheriff's deputies, ordered the man to drop the sword but police said he stated, "It stays in my hand."

Officers then used a Taser to shock the man, and they then retrieved the sword and handcuffed him. Medics were called, in part to remove the barbs of the Taser, and as they treated the man he stopped breathing, police said.

Ex-student sentenced for voyeurism at school

IN VALPARAISO — A former Valparaiso University student was sentenced to probation after pleading guilty to secretly filming male classmates showering and using the bathroom and posting the videos online.

A Porter County judge sentenced Joshua Baker III of Memphis, Tenn., to one year of suspended prison time for each of the two counts of voyeurism he had pleaded guilty to in the case.

Baker, 22, will serve two years of probation and is required to attend counseling. (The Northwest Indiana) Times reported.

From wire reports

FACES

'It's a return to life'

Paisley eager to begin drive-in concert series

BY MESFIN FEKADU
Associated Press

For country star Brad Paisley, who has spent the past two decades performing live concerts for feverish fans, the thought of touring being taken away never crossed his mind.

"Even as recorded music went through transitions where it was less lucrative and people wine (dealing with) illegal piracy, or streaming was taking revenue away from record companies, I'm like, 'Well at least we've got the live music. They can't ever take that away.'"

Then the coronavirus pandemic hit — or as Paisley puts it: "COVID-19 was like, 'Watch me.'"

That's why the three-time Grammy-winner is excited to be part of Live Nation's first "Live from the Drive-In" series, debuting next month, where fans can watch performances from inside or around their cars with enough space between groups.

Paisley, who will headline three of the nine shows, said he's eager to perform "No I In Beer," a song he wrote in 2018 about "having a beer in spite of everything" but released during the pandemic to help fans cope.

"It is perfect for these times," he said. Speaking of beer, Paisley is encouraging that concertgoers assign a designated driver before getting to the concerts, which also includes performers like Nelly, Darius Rucker and Jon Pardi.

"(It's) literally a better situation than at my concerts," Paisley said of the drive-in format, where ticket holders can bring their own food and drinks. "I look at that blasted lawn, they are so hammered. I'm like, 'I don't know who drove the 10,000 of you in the back that I see, but I hope they're not back there because there's nobody that needs to be drunk.' In some ways this is a safer setup in that sense, too. It's like you can be sure they came in a vehicle and they didn't leave their vehicle. They're beside it."

In an interview with The Associated Press, Paisley discusses the upcoming live shows and more.

How have you dealt with not being able to perform live shows like usual?

You start to realize though that this (touring) thing that's been a part of my identity as a performer since 1999, which is summers spent seeing faces and playing live music, is gone. This is such a blessing to be able to sort of get one past the goalie here, or three past the goalie, I guess, and play these. To get these shows and say, 'All right, we can do a few shows like this and reach some people' — I think it's going to be really important for me, for my band, for the fans themselves. It's a way of sort of letting each other know — we're still here. We still care. Someday this will be over. There's a glimpse of life again.

It's going to be nuts. It's going to be like a total return to life in some weird way and we're all going to have a really good time. For me, also, I've got this band that's been sitting around and ... they've been with me since 1999.

You've had the same band since releasing your first album?

Yeah, it's nuts. Our newest member is the steel player, who came along right at the beginning of the second album in 2000.

What was it like getting the call from Live Nation to participate in its first-ever drive-in series?

I just said they didn't just throw in the towel and say, "This year's a wash." It's really not about making money with any of these at all. This is more about, 'Look, we've got music to play, there are fans that want to be there in some form, in some fashion. We need to figure out how to do that.' I think that's the best way to kind of stay sane right now to sort of sort of some things like this that are safe and a release from everything. It's mind-numbing.

What do you say to fans who are hesitant about the drive-in format?

Well, this is the trick, there's a lot of vari-



AP

Brad Paisley, shown in 2018, will perform in Live Nation's "Live from the Drive-In" concert series July 10-12. "I've got so many songs about vehicles," Paisley said.

ation to this that people are doing. In this case, one thing that's really key is that ... you don't have to stay in the car, you can be in your parking space. You can be in your little parking area. You can tailgate, do what you would do.

Most of the people that go to my concerts, I've been out there in the parking lots prior and gone out there and seen — this is like what happens before the show, but it's happening during.

Are you backing your set list differently in this type of situation?

I think I will. I've got so many songs about vehicles. I was realizing that, "Mud on the Tires" is one of my biggest hits. I've got a song called "Moonshine in the Truck" ... that kind of makes sense right

now. That'd be fun to throw that in. It's like, 'How many car themes can I throw in this concert?' It might just be one car medley after another.

Do you see drive-in concerts being the norm for live shows for the rest of the year?

I think it's one of the best ways to do it. ... This reminds me so much of high school of what we would do. We would drive out into a field, literally in high school. Our way of entertaining ourselves was to drive out into a field, a bunch of high school kids, in their vehicles, in the middle of nowhere, out this creek where we lived, blast music and light a little bonfire and just crank up songs. This feels ... so organic in some way that I do think it's a great way to do it.

Kimmel apologizes for blackface; Fey wants '30 Rock' episodes pulled

From wire reports

Jimmy Kimmel is the latest comedian to apologize for his past use of blackface as Hollywood continues to grapple with its history of systemic racism. He issued a statement Tuesday afternoon saying it was wrong for him to wait so long to address his "embarrassing" impressions of celebrities throughout the 1990s.

"I have long been reluctant to address this, as I knew doing so would be celebrated as a victory by those who equate apology with weakness and cheer for leaders who use prejudice to divide us," he wrote. "That delay was a mistake. There is nothing more important to me than your respect, and I apologize to those who were genuinely hurt or offended by the makeup I wore or the words I spoke."

In the mid-1990s, Kimmel did a recurring impersonation of NBA player Karl Malone on the Los Angeles-area radio station KROQ. He brought it to television along with dozens of other celebrity impressions via "The Man Show," the Comedy Central

series he co-hosted with Adam Carolla from 1999 to 2003. They enlisted makeup artists to make him look more like Malone — a choice that, per his statement, he believed at the time "had no more to do with Karl's skin color than it did his bulging muscles and bald head."

"I believe that I have evolved and matured over the last twenty-plus years, and I hope that is evident to anyone who watches my show," Kimmel wrote. "I know that this will not be the last I hear of this and that it will be used again to try to quiet me. I love this country too much to allow that. I won't be bullied into silence by those who feign outrage to advance their oppressive and genuinely racist agendas."

The statement — in which Kimmel also shared that he will be taking a break from hosting "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" until September, when he is set to host the Emmy Awards — arrives a day after "30 Rock" creators Tina Fey and Robert Carlock asked streaming services to remove four episodes of their NBC comedy that feature

characters in blackface. This included one scene where series regular Jane Krakowski dressed up as Pittsburgh Steelers star Lynn Swann for a "black swan" Halloween costume, and another in which guest star Jon Hamm parodied "Amos 'n' Andy."

"I understand now that 'intent' is not a free pass for white people to use these images," Fey said in a letter to companies that show "30 Rock" on their platforms.

Toronto film fest plans virtual red carpets

The Toronto International Film Festival, one of the leading launching pads for lead movies and Oscar contenders, on Wednesday announced plans for a smaller 2020 edition with virtual red carpet premieres and drive-in screenings.

The Toronto festival, held annually in early September, is typically a sprawling city-wide affair that hosts between 250-400 feature-length films and the debuts of many of the fall movie season's top releases.

The normal 10 days of festival-going will be halved, at least in physical screenings. For the festival's first five days, it will present social-distanced screenings of premieres, including drive-ins and outdoor screenings.

But for the first time, TIFF will also roll out a digital platform that will span the full 10 days of the festival and include digital screenings and talks.

Trump's brother seeks to halt tell-all book

President Donald Trump's brother is asking a New York City judge to prevent the president's niece from publishing a tell-all book, expected in late July.

In court papers, Robert Trump's lawyers argue that Mary Trump and others had signed a settlement agreement in the late 1990s that included a confidentiality clause explicitly saying they would not "publish any account concerning the litigation or their relationship," unless they all agreed.

The settlement agreement

related to the will of Donald Trump's father, New York real estate developer Fred Trump.

Mary Trump is the daughter of Fred Trump Jr., the president's older brother, who died in 1981.

A description of the book, "Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man," on Amazon says it describes "a nightmare of traumas, destructive relationships, and a tragic combination of neglect and abuse."

Other news

■ Adult film star Ron Jeremy was charged with raping three women and sexually assaulting a fourth, Los Angeles County prosecutors said Tuesday. Jeremy, 67, is among the best known and most prolific actors in the history of the adult film industry, with thousands of credits to his name.

■ Movie producer, film financier, real estate heir and major Democratic political donor Steve Bing died Monday at his residence in Los Angeles. He was 55. The coroner said Tuesday that the cause of death was suicide.

STARS AND STRIPES

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OMMBEAMN

Ernie Gates

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OPINION

TikTokkers' Trump rally trolling has darker side

By MOLLY ROBERTS

The Washington Post

Did radical protesters derail President Donald Trump's reelection rally in Tulsa, Okla.? Maybe, if the definition of "radical" is "devoted to the mellifluous crooning and mind-defying choreography of the world's most successful Korean pop music outfits."

The TikTok Tenet corps claimed responsibility for last weekend's dud of a campaign event, declaring that it registered for potentially hundreds of thousands of tickets as a prank. Its allies in arms: the same K-pop superfans who flooded the Dallas Police Department's reporting app with videos of their impeccably groomed, hip-popping heroes during the early June uprisings. Whether the kids really deserve responsibility is one question — and whether they deserve props is another. The strategy of "ripping people on the Internet, after all, looks a little too familiar."

The president spent the days preceding his rally strutting about, touting a likely audience of 1 million; ultimately a modest 6,200 supporters showed up to an arena with space for 190,000.

Campaign insider Brad Parscale insists that "leftists and online trolls doing a victory lap ... don't know what they're talking about" — because he and his employees "weed out bogus numbers," and because first-come, first-serve entry meant ticket "reservations" were mostly a fiction. But all that weeding didn't stop the team from predicting that 160 times more people would come out to cheer for their dearest leader than actually made the trip.

The coronavirus should probably get more credit for the lackluster attendance, but the K-pop boosters may have helped

inflate planners' already bloated expectations for attendance.

So is that a good thing?

Anyone who disapproves of the president generally can't disapprove of the president holding an indoor rally in the middle of a pandemic since anyone will have gloated when the commander in chief couldn't command a crowd. Yet the tactics young people have adopted for what some have called a new activism are neither new nor, maybe, all that admirable.

"We kept on the quiet side," a young YouTubeur who participated in the play told The New York Times. "Alt TikTok," a subculture on the app that thrives on eccentricity, apparently masterminded the effort with the K-poppers. "They all know the algorithms and how they can boost video get more views they want." Plus, we are told, the plotters deleted their posts after a day or two to keep the plan secret.

Add to these sneaky tactics the hijacking of the #WhiteLivesMatter hashtag last month to stop endless K-pop fanzams yet again and to stop supremacists from communicating with one another or anyone else — and you get the motivation warfare. Information warfare doesn't consist, in fact, of false stories and other lies — and in fact, platforms such as Facebook don't usually take down networks of accounts based on whether they're telling the truth about whatever they post. They take down networks based on whether they're telling a bizarre set of meetings on Sept. 21, 2016.

These platforms are in a constant course against coordinated inauthentic behavior: when groups manipulate sites' mechanics to manipulate "reality" on the Internet, misleading people into thinking comments are coming from one place or one person when really they're coming

from another, or simulating a mass movement from the grass roots when really it's organized by a central authority.

Think Russia spreading WikiLeaks information under the guise of concerned U.S. citizens. Think right-wing provocateurs masquerading as antifa as protests roared, tricking rural communities to fear that attacks were imminent. Or think of information warfare that isn't technically coordinated inauthentic behavior and yet still can be insidious: conspiracy theorists taking advantage of, say, the way Twitter's trending topics list is set up to push fringe ideas such as QAnon or Pizzagate into mainstream conversation.

Of course, these TikTokkers also weren't lying about who they were on any social media site (which probably helps explain why they got away with it). Every policy says their behavior doesn't count as coordinated and inauthentic. Yet they were trying to keep their efforts off the radar, and they were playing with platforms' viral mechanics to rise to the top, and their ultimate aim was to deceive.

We may smile to see members of a rising generation employing the tricks in service of progressive values. Yet celebrating some manipulation and condemning others is an unsustainable tack for anyone who wants to untangle our world wide web of lies. The whole story is cute and clever, but more than that it's sad — sad that this is the activism that feels most normal and most natural to those who grew up in the Internet age, sad that many believe it's the activism most likely to succeed in a battlefield already full of falsehoods, and sadder still that they may be right.

Molly Roberts writes about technology and society for The Washington Post's Opinions section.

Trump's complicated, corrupt dealings with Turkey

By DAVID IGNATIUS

Washington Post Writers Group

Among the most startling disclosures in John Bolton's new book are his account of President Donald Trump's dealings with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The Turkey story — featuring Trump assuring Erdogan he would "take care of things" in an ongoing federal criminal investigation — may be the clearest, most continuous narrative of misconduct by Trump that has yet surfaced.

It's a tale that connects some of his closest advisers: former national security adviser Michael Flynn; personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani; and senior adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner.

Bolton says he warned Attorney General William Barr in April 2019 that Trump's repeated efforts to help Erdogan showed his "punchant to, in effect, give personal favors to dictators he liked."

The Turkey story begins, like much about Trump, with his personal business interests. When he opened Trump Towers Istanbul in April 2019, his daughter Ivanka tweeted thanks to then-Prime Minister Erdogan for endorsing. With them was young Turkish businessman named Mehmet Ali Yalcindag, whom Trump described at the opening as a "great friend" of Ivanka's. Kushner, her husband, was there, too.

This endorsement was shared by some of Trump's advisers. During the 2016 campaign, Flynn's consulting firm received more than \$500,000 from a Turkish businessman who headed the state-run business federation. On Election Day, Flynn published an op-ed supporting Erdogan's campaign against Fethullah Gulen, a Muslim cleric living in exile in America.

Erdogan wanted Gulen extradited; Flynn's piece seemed to lay the groundwork.

Erdogan was obsessed with another U.S. legal issue — an investigation by the Southern District of New York into a Turkish bank called Halkbank and a Turkish-Iranian gold dealer named Reza Zarrab. In an October 17 column, I revealed a bizarre set of meetings on Sept. 21, 2016 in New York when Erdogan and his wife pleaded for Zarrab's release in separate visits with then-Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill. U.S. officials told me the Erdogans feared the Justice Department investigation might implicate their family. Erdogan's son-in-law, on Oct. 2016, arrested Pastor Andrew Brunson, claiming he was linked to Gulen. Some U.S. officials told me they feared Brunson would be used as a bargaining chip for Gulen's extradition. Trump's election gave Erdogan a new opening. Flynn was fired in February, he was traveling in the channel in Ivanka Trump's friend Yalcindag, who was named head of the state-run business group.

The campaign to end the Halkbank prosecution and extradite Gulen accelerated. On Feb. 24, Giuliani contacted then-U.S. Attorney General Barr to say that he was traveling in the channel in Ivanka Zarrab, and, according to a Giuliani statement filed with the court, was pressing the Justice Department for "some agreement between the United States and Turkey" to boost America's "security interests."

Trump fired Barr on March 1, 2017, but the Halkbank investigation continued under the new U.S. attorney, Geoffrey Berman — infuriating Erdogan. Brunson remained in prison, and Trump wanted him released, but Erdogan escalated his pressure when he called Trump in July 2018 and claimed that Gulen was responsible for the Halkbank investigation, too.

Trump wanted Brunson freed, and he didn't like being threatened, so he announced that he would impose sanctions on Turkey.

Enter Kushner. According to Bolton, Vice President Mike Pence proposed that Kushner call Turkish Finance Minister Berat Albayrak, who is Erdogan's son-in-law.

Bolton writes: "I briefed [Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Treasury Secretary Stephen] Mnuchin on this new 'son-in-law channel,' and they both exploded." Brunson was finally released in October 2018 and arrived in Washington, where he had an emotional meeting with Trump.

Trump appeared ready to derail the Halkbank case when he met Erdogan on Dec. 1, 2018, at the G-20 summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Erdogan told Trump the bank was "totally innocent," Bolton writes. Trump "then told Erdogan that he would take care of things, explaining that the Southern District prosecutors were his people, but were Obama people, a problem that would be fixed when they were replaced by his people."

Barr hoped to broker a settlement, but he, too, was troubled by Trump's conduct. Bolton writes that when he met Barr for lunch on April 23 to complain about Trump's "fondness for dictators," Barr responded that "he was very worried about the appearances Trump was creating, especially his remarks on Halkbank to Erdogan in Buenos Aires at the G20 meeting."

But Trump couldn't fix this Turkey problem. On Oct. 15, as the Ukraine scandal was brewing, Berman's office indicted Halkbank. Eight months later, Trump fired Berman. No explanation was given.

The Halkbank case continues to plague his remarks on the Turkish president notwithstanding.

OPINION

The reassuring context of Korea tensions

By ARTHUR I. CYR
Special to Stars and Stripes

Leaflets of punishment." That is how the weird hermit kingdom of North Korea describes new efforts to distribute propaganda-filled paper in South Korea. Apparently, the internet remains too avant-garde. Pyongyang blames defectors for provoking this move.

The South Korean military used to send propaganda north. However, that practice ended in 2010. Seoul discourages such efforts.

Meanwhile two important anniversaries for Korea occur near the end of June. On June 26, 1945, the Charter of the United Nations was signed in San Francisco. On June 25, 1950, the army of North Korea invaded South Korea in a surprise attack, launching the brutal Korean War.

In San Francisco, new U.S. President Harry S. Truman addressed delegates from literally around the world. He had assumed the office on April 12, following the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

World War II was still in progress. Nazi Germany surrendered unconditionally on May 8, but the costly total war with Japan would continue through the summer.

Truman early in his speech stated: "[I]n this most destructive of all wars, you have won a victory against war itself." The new president generously praised President Woodrow Wilson, whose frustrated effort to bring the U.S. into the League of Nations following World War I nevertheless set the stage and began the national debate that culminated in the creation of the U.N.

In August 1941, FDR and Britain's Prime Minister Winston Churchill secretly met off the coast of Newfoundland. This was a



Villagers stage a rally against the flying of anti-North Korea leaflets into North Korea near the unification observation in Paju, South Korea, on Monday. The sign reads "Stop the flying of propaganda leaflets into North Korea."

AIN YOUNG-IOON/AP

daring venture: Most Americans remained committed isolationists, the U.S. was still formally a noncombatant, and German submarines then dominated much of the Atlantic Ocean. Killing Churchill would have been a singular victory.

After successful negotiation, the secret summit went public. Churchill and Roosevelt announced the U.N., also daring given that the Axis then had the military initiative.

In late June 1950, Truman immediately

supported the U.N. decision to resist with force the North Korea invasion. The U.S. led the international effort to protect the South, and persevered until President Dwight D. Eisenhower finally secured an armistice in 1953.

The capstone of South Korea's transition to democracy was the election of Kim Dae-jung as president in 1998. In 2000, he received the Nobel Peace Prize. Earlier, a principal symbol of democratic activism, he was imprisoned by the Park Chung-hee

dictatorship. On another occasion, South Korean agents kidnapped and planned to kill him. Intervention by CIA official Don Gregg saved his life.

South Korea's remarkable domestic accomplishments have unfolded while the country becomes increasingly influential in global arenas. Ban Ki-moon, a career South Korean diplomat, served as U.N. secretary-general from 2007 to 2016.

In March 2012, the Obama administration shrewdly nominated President Jim Yong Kim of Dartmouth College, who was born in Seoul Korea, as president of the World Bank. Despite challenges, the U.N. has expanded international cooperation since the end of the Cold War.

The original vision of the United Nations combined competing goals of favoring the most powerful nations and inclusive global representation. Ban Ki-moon and Jim Yong Kim personify South Korea's significant expanding role as a bridge between developed and developing nations.

South Korea is a vital U.S. ally, dating from the Korean War. Through the American military involvement in South Vietnam, approximately 50,000 ROK (Republic of Korea) troops were also stationed in that country. Nearly all were combat troops, and they developed a deserved reputation for effectiveness.

The Liked Nations today is relatively strong, confirming the vision of two great visionary allied leaders early in World War II. The U.N. is no longer divisive in U.S. party politics.

Also confirmed is the decision in 1950 to defend South Korea.

Arthur I. Cyr is Clausen Distinguished Professor at Carthage College in Wisconsin and author of "After the Cold War."

There should be more Hispanics in the senior ranks

By WILLIAM D. RODRIGUEZ
Special to Stars and Stripes

The continuing focus on diversity and inclusion has become more of a "race issue" and a "gender issue" than an "ethnicity issue." The Hispanic American population has grown to be the largest minority group in this country, and yet, comparatively speaking, our armed forces still do not reflect "the face of the nation." There should be more Hispanics in the senior ranks of the Hispanic American population. This is particularly true in the flag and general officer, senior officer and senior enlisted ranks. This is not diversity and inclusion.

As you will remember, 45 years ago the emphasis to increase the number of African Americans in key colleges, universities and other educational and business institutions was through affirmative action and quota control. This program, which was deemed as successful, had its flaws. It had very little, if any, regard for any ethnic community, and there was little concern for meritocracy.

Not only, however, the program eventually produced a significant number of African American flag and general officers. These senior officers then served as examples and potential mentors to those who came behind them. Similar to what was done for African Americans over 45 years ago, there should be a renewed emphasis and focus on the ethnic communities, specifically, the Hispanic American community. Furthermore, there should be an in-depth analysis of the demographics of Hispanic Americans in the armed forces and specifically in its senior ranks, and the Department of Defense and the services should take an approach

toward tracking and mentoring Hispanic Americans in order to advocate for them, ensure they are fully qualified for promotion into the senior ranks of the armed forces, and are given a fair and objective opportunity for promotion without prejudice or discrimination.

There have been a number of diversity reports and articles published throughout the years, and they have been nothing but a current statistical and demographic update of Hispanic Americans in the armed forces. Furthermore, the reports have fallen on "deaf ears." Moreover, the resulting diversity and inclusion policies generated within DOD have become nothing more than "shelfware" with very little action taken based on those policies. This has been going on for four decades now, and the demographic data proves my point.

The issues concerning prejudice, discrimination, diversity and inclusion will probably not go away in my lifetime. However, the issue concerning the extremely low number of Hispanic Americans in the senior ranks is the result of a total lack of leadership interest within the armed forces. If we look toward our military leaders for closer mentoring of Hispanic Americans, strive for the highest meritocracy and push for positions of the highest visibility for Hispanic Americans, then we might make some well-founded headway. We need to examine who is coming up in the ranks, who is in zone for O-6, O-7 and O-8, and we need to strongly advocate for them. DOD and the respective services should analyze the reasons why highly qualified Hispanic Americans were not promoted, understand why others were promoted — including possible bias, prejudice and discrimination — and then present those facts to the pow-

ers that be. I am sure that this can be done given the confidentiality of the deliberations of the promotion boards.

I find it difficult to believe that, of all the highly qualified Hispanic Americans who are serving at the O-6 level in our armed forces, very few, if any, meet the requirements of the precepts for the flag and general officer promotion boards. There are a number of O-6 whose records and performance in tough leadership positions show that they are head and shoulders above their peers, that they meet the requirements of the promotion board precepts, and yet, they are not selected for flag or general officer. There is no question that the importance of meritocracy, i.e. becoming the best qualified candidate for promotion and for selection to higher positions of leadership, rather than the importance of any racial, ethnic or diversity label, is understood in most organizations. However, when it is time to be looked at for promotion, they are not promoted. Is it an issue of subjectivity, or objectivity, on the particular promotion board? Are we seeing unconscious discrimination and bias at the more senior promotion boards?

Finally, the retention concerns of senior Hispanic American officers and enlisted, and why the promotion zone pools contain a small number, if any, of Hispanic Americans should be analyzed and brought to the forefront. Within the sea services, we are seeing more and more Hispanic American officers and enlisted taking advantage of retirement at their first opportunity. When I was president of Association of Naval Services Officers (2011-19), I saw many Hispanic American officers within the sea services at the O-4 and O-5 ranks, and many enlisted at the E-6 and above ranks,

retire at the 20-year mark. I discovered that this was the time when their children were graduating from high school; that they were tired of longer deployments that were straining the family nucleus; that they did not want to contend with the stress of budget issues that they saw those in higher ranks having to deal with on a daily basis; and that they were being offered lucrative opportunities in the private sector. This dilemma is reducing the pool of qualified Hispanic American officers and enlisted who could possibly be promoted into the higher ranks and therefore help the sea services in particular reflect the "leadership face of the nation" in the senior officer and enlisted ranks. We must work on retaining our best qualified Hispanic Americans past their 20-year point.

I believe that the armed forces recognize that the recruitment of Hispanic men and women is no longer a matter of equity, but rather a significant necessity given the rapid growth of this segment of the population. I also believe, as do many senior officers and enlisted leaders, that we will be better served by continuing to eliminate the racial, ethnic and diversity labels.

Nevertheless, we must continue to exhibit the inherent leadership qualities in continuing to promote the importance of diversity and inclusion. Further, Hispanic Veterans Affairs and other Hispanic-oriented professional groups must continue to be leadership role models for their subordinates, their peers and their senior allies.

William D. Rodriguez, a retired U.S. Navy rear admiral, is a Hispanic Veterans Leadership Alliance board member and past president of the Association of Naval Services Officers.

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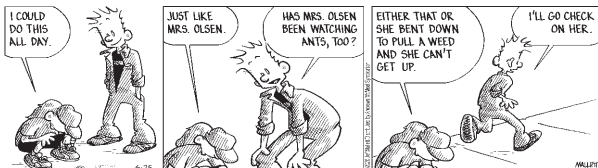
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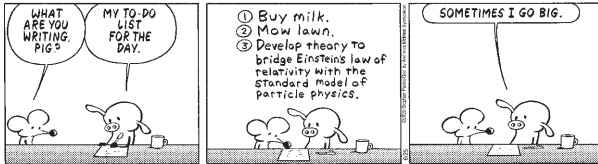
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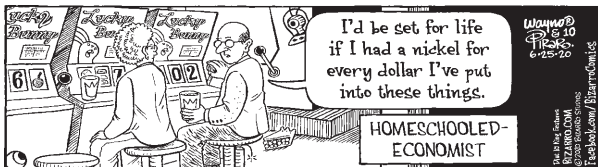
Carpe Diem



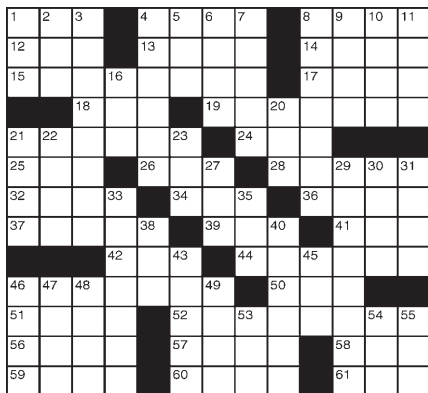
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 PC alternative
- 4 Seniors' org.
- 8 Author Bellow
- 12 Pig-poke link
- 13 "Do — others ..."
- 14 Between jobs
- 15 Flour container
- 17 Small iPod
- 18 Louvre collection
- 19 Marks of shame
- 21 Tel Aviv's land
- 24 High school subj.
- 25 Miss Piggy's pronoun
- 26 Doze (off)
- 28 Mom's brother
- 32 Iowa city
- 34 Trail the pack
- 36 Pace
- 37 Spars
- 39 Short do
- 41 PBS funder
- 42 Goal
- 44 Totally relax
- 46 Continuous
- 50 Sweetie
- 51 Beehive State
- 52 Like some bacon
- 56 Misplace
- 57 RCA purchase
- 58 Menagerie
- 59 Pencil filler
- 60 Tennis champ
- 61 Stately tree

DOWN

- 1 Karaoke prop, for short
- 2 Literary collection
- 3 Yellow birds
- 4 "Emma" author Jane
- 5 Busy insect
- 6 GPS suggestions
- 7 Dessert wines
- 8 Performing in a choir
- 9 First person
- 10 Arm bone
- 11 Some July babies
- 16 Lyricist
- Gershwin
- 20 Hosp., area
- 21 Mosque VIP
- 22 "Brave New World" drug
- 23 Texter's chuckle
- 27 Apply cream
- 29 Declare to be a saint
- 30 Stead
- 31 Coup d' —
- 33 Hide (away)
- 35 Head of st.
- 38 Command to Fido
- 40 Nanny's warning
- 43 Coffee flavor
- 45 Deity
- 46 Void partner
- 47 Oklahoma tribe
- 48 Houston acronym
- 49 Cushions
- 53 Ultimate
- 54 Gmail alternative
- 55 — de plume

Answer to Previous Puzzle



6-25

CRYPTOQUIP

ADJZVFD JNVSQHX FKSUDH
CKII JNSQNHQDO CDH ANOX
BCKMI ONKSU XNUZ, QCDHD
BZF Z QBKFQ NE EZKQC.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IF SOMEBODY EXAMINES EXHIBITS AND FINDS THEM AWFUL? DISPLAYS DISPLEASE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals C

SCOREBOARD/GOLF/COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules.
myafn.net

Deals

Tuesday's transactions

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
American League
OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Signed RHP Jeff Criswell, OF Michael Guldberg and RHP Dane Acker to minor league contracts.
HOUSTON ASTROS — Signed RHP Jimmy Gonsky, RHP Jonathan Sprinkle and OF Cody Orr to minor league contracts.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Agreed to terms with LHP Asa Lacy, SS Nick Loftin, RHP Ben Hernandez, OF Tyler Gentry, LHP Christian Chamberlain, RHP Will Klein, LF Al Block, OF Tucker Bradley, C Kale Emshoff, C Saul Garza, RHP John McMahon INF Matt Schmitt and RHP Chase Wallace on minor league contracts.
MINNESOTA TWINS — Signed INF Aaron Sabato to a minor league contract.
TAMPA BAY RAYS — Signed RHP Nick Bitsko to a minor league contract.
National League
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Signed RHP Will Jensen to a minor league contract.
WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Agreed to terms with RHP Cade Cavalli, RHP Cole Henry, RHP Golden Powell, LHP Mitchell Parker, C Brady Lindsley and SS Sammy Infante on minor league contracts.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES — Announced F Anthony Tolliver for the remainder of the 2019-2020 season.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
DETROIT LIONS — Announced Martha Firestone is stepping down as principal owner.

COLLEGE
CLINTON STATE — Named Chuck Thornton as Sports Information Director.
ITU — Announced Greg Heiar as men's basketball assistant coach.
FLORIDA GULF COAST — Announced women's basketball G Anya Marinkovic as returning for her redshirt senior season.

Golf

PGA Tour FedEx Cup leaders

Through June 21	Points	Money
1. Webb Simpson	1,583	\$4,029,300
2. Justin Thomas	1,543	\$4,582,727
3. Brooks Koepka	1,536	\$4,044,043
4. Rory McIlroy	1,213	\$3,899,801
5. Sergio Garcia	1,166	\$3,470,281
6. Brendon Todd	1,110	\$2,561,615
7. Daniel Berger	1,091	\$2,827,244
8. Marc Leishman	1,059	\$2,986,025
9. Sebastian Munoz	1,034	\$2,425,633
10. Lanto Griffin	1,026	\$2,421,112
11. Abraham Ancer	970	\$2,530,089
12. Alexander Schauffele	942	\$2,375,418
13. Bryson DeChambeau	928	\$2,143,735
14. Tyrrell Hatton	913	\$2,879,379
15. Hideki Matsuyama	828	\$2,728,322
16. Joaquin Niemann	831	\$2,248,617
17. Kevin Na	807	\$2,103,945
18. Cameron Smith	787	\$2,062,515
19. Cameron Champ	780	\$1,786,759
20. Collin Morikawa	747	\$1,818,409
21. Scottie Scheffler	697	\$1,685,298
22. Matt Tamm	692	\$1,892,626
23. Adam Scott	685	\$2,086,829
24. Justin English	678	\$1,917,011
25. Jon Rahm	677	\$1,931,442
26. Tom Hoge	654	\$1,716,865
27. Si Woo Kim	650	\$1,810,469
28. Yoon Hyun An	636	\$1,465,880
29. Tyler Duncan	617	\$1,524,403
30. Tony Finau	593	\$1,337,248
31. Daniel Berger	587	\$1,378,434
32. Tiger Woods	571	\$1,956,312
33. Patrick Cantlay	561	\$1,476,955
34. Matt Kuchar	559	\$1,408,016
35. Joel Dahmen	552	\$1,550,228
36. Adam Long	543	\$1,289,958
37. Adam Pataki	539	\$1,707,931
38. Viktor Hovland	504	\$1,014,639
39. Justin Thomas	503	\$1,025,151
40. J.T. Poston	485	\$1,331,744
41. Daniel Kang	484	\$1,137,448
42. Brendan Steele	477	\$1,337,248
43. Ryan Palmer	471	\$1,263,157
44. Harry Higgs	469	\$1,464,350
45. Corey Conners	460	\$1,199,385
46. Justin Thomas	458	\$1,156,099
47. Vaughn Taylor	442	\$1,148,779
48. Matt Kuchar	431	\$1,924,026
49. Bubba Watson	427	\$1,142,409
50. Billy Horschel	414	\$1,177,408
51. Maverick McNealy	390	\$908,789

Two golfers pull out of Travelers

McDowell, Koepka withdraw after caddies get virus

By DOUG FERGUSON
 Associated Press

The caddies for Brooks Koepka and Graeme McDowell have tested positive for the coronavirus, leading both major champions to withdraw Wednesday from the Travelers Championship in Connecticut.

"The snowball is getting a little bit bigger," McDowell said as he began the 1,200-mile drive from the TPC River Highlands to his home in Orlando, Fla.

McDowell tested negative, though he suspects he has the virus and decided to drive home to start his self-isolation. He said Ricky Elliott, a longtime friend from Northern Ireland and Koepka's caddie, received a positive result and that Koepka has withdrawn.

Cameron Champ tested positive on Tuesday, the second player to test positive in the last five days. Still to come are results from all players, caddies and essential personnel at the Travelers Championship, the third tournament since the PGA Tour ended its three-month shutdown because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

McDowell played a practice round Tuesday with Koepka and British Open champion Shane Lowry. McDowell said he heard from Lowry, whose test was negative.

"The problem is, people are



GERRY BROOME/AP

Brooks Koepka withdrew from the Travelers Championship on Wednesday after his caddie tested positive for COVID-19. Graeme McDowell also withdrew after his caddie tested positive.

out here passing tests when they could still have the virus," McDowell said. "That's what we're learning. Ricky passed a test on Monday and he just failed it this morning."

McDowell's caddie, Ken Comboy, never made it to Connecticut. McDowell missed the cut last week at the RBC Heritage on Hilton Head Island, S.C. He felt a sore throat and reported it on the daily questionnaire, and then Comboy drove back to Hilton Head from Orlando to take an-

other test. That was the quickest way to get the results, and he received them Tuesday night while waiting to fly.

McDowell says he was at a memorial service on June 15 with Comboy, Elliott and McDowell's trainer, after which they drove up to Hilton Head.

McDowell said he was feeling a little fatigued at the end of last week, which he wrote off to having not competed in a tournament for three months and then playing two straight weeks.

"I had been feeling a little off color, but not with alarm bells ringing until Kenny failed," he said.

The PGA Tour's return to tournaments started with a perfect record — 487 tests for players arriving at Colonial in Fort Worth, Texas; 98 players on the charter flight to South Carolina; 369 tests at Hilton Head Island. All came back negative.

Nick Watney was the first player to test positive, on Friday at the RBC Heritage.

Athletes' return provides back-to-school primer

By RALPH D. RUSSO
 Associated Press

Late last week, Clemson announced 28 athletes and athletic staffers had tested positive for COVID-19.

On Saturday, Kansas State said it was shutting down its voluntary workouts for athletes at team facilities after a spike of 14 positive cases.

And on Monday, Notre Dame reported one positive among 91 tested football players. Wisconsin had two positives among 117 athletes tested and Iowa's latest round of testing found 10 positives among 40 overall.

As colleges and universities ponder how to reopen campuses to droves of students during a pandemic, sports programs around the country are providing a daily glimpse at the challenges that lie ahead — and maybe some solutions.

"When you're thinking about athletes, people are very worried about sports and the close contact they have. And there's a little bit less concern when it comes to the general student body because of their interactions being different," Dr. Amesh Adajia, a senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins University Center for Health Security and a member of the NCAA's COVID-19 advisory panel. "But I do think it speaks to the fact that the colleges are going to have to come up with a plan for dealing with these cases."



ROBERT FRANKLIN/AP

Notre Dame defensive lineman Daelin Hayes, foreground, and football coach Brian Kelly, right, march to commemorate Juneteenth in South Bend, Ind., on Friday. As of Monday, only one Notre Dame football player has tested positive for coronavirus.

With an eye toward preparing for competition in a couple of months — the major college football season kicks off in most places around the Labor Day weekend — athletic departments began bringing groups of athletes back to campus June 1.

The goal is to create something of a bubble around players, using frequent testing to catch positive cases and contact tracing and quarantining to mitigate spread.

Positive tests were anticipated, and they should be when the rest of the students come back. For athletes, the hope is by mid-July football teams will move into larger group activities, then full-blown practices in August.

To do so, athletic administrators and coaching staffs are stressing to players that there is only so much that can be put in place to protect them from contracting coronavirus. Some of it is on the players themselves.

Kansas State University athletic director Gene Taylor told The Athletic a spike in cases might have had two causes: A small number of athletes not completing their quarantine after they arrived on campus and had been tested, and then that group joining some other athletes in attending an off-campus party.

"It wasn't that they did anything on purpose. They just weren't taking it seriously," Taylor told The Athletic.

For most athletes, the greater risk from the virus is being sidelined from competition or possibly infecting teammates.

The average student isn't facing that type of pressure to take precautions, which worries Dr. Greg Stewart, the team physician for Tulane athletes.

"The general student population, it's not that they are not going to care, but they're not going to care as much," Stewart said. "It's not going to be the same for them as it is for the football team."

MLB



GREGORY BULL, ABOVE, AND CHARLIE NEIBERGALL, BELOW/AP

Above: NL MVP Cody Bellinger got off to a scorching start last year, batting .376 after the Dodgers' 60th game, meaning he might have a chance to hit .400 during a 60-game season. Below: Major League baseball canceled a planned game between the Yankees and White Sox on the diamond it built next to the "Field of Dreams" movie site near Dyersville, Iowa.



Back: Shortened season could be perfect setup for surprise champion

FROM BACK PAGE

wound up hoisting the World Series trophy.

Perhaps it's the perfect setup for outsiders like the Padres or Mariners to sneak into the championship chase.

Let's not forget those Houston Astros, either. They were the biggest story in baseball when we last saw them, with fans taunting Jose Altuve, Alex Bregman and their accomplices following the trash can-banging, sign-stealing scandal that made national headlines over the winter.

Some things, chances are, won't change when the games resume.

No minor leagues this year, tough luck there. The majors, meanwhile, give new meaning to short-season ball.

A look at what's on deck:

Oddsballs

An automatic runner on second base to begin all extra innings. Designated hitters in NL games. Pitchers with their own personal rosin bags.

This season will look like none other in baseball history, the

price for trying to play amid a pandemic.

"So long National League. It was fun while it lasted," Cardinals pitcher Adam Wainwright tweeted.

The extra-inning rule, that's bound to bring new strategy, different stats to dissect and an innovative twist on the old game. It'll be — aw, heck, who are we kidding? It will be major league baseball meets Central Park softball.

Just hoping that experiment doesn't stick around in '21.

Marking the moment

To date, Bruce Maxwell is the only major leaguer to take a knee during the playing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" before a game. The backup Oakland catcher did that at the Coliseum in September 2017, following the lead of NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick.

Maxwell saw limited time with the A's in 2018, played in Mexico last year and doesn't have a job with a big league team this year.

Major leaguers have not, in general, been the first set of players in pro sports to speak out on issues of social injustice. We'll see what stances they take on and off the field when games return.

Fly it high!

OK, say Francisco Lindor helps Cleveland win a most elusive World Series title. Or Christian Yelich leads the Brewers to their first flag.

Fans will certainly argue: Is it a legitimate crown or more like a prize won during some European soccer tournament?

Kay Kenealy, a 59-year-old from Waukesha, Wis., who has a 20-game ticket package to Brewers games, took a meaty swing at the debate.

"The season's the season. It's kind of like with the Bucks in the running for an NBA championship. A championship's a championship," she said. "If the season's a month long, you play for that month."

"Whether it be the Brewers or the A's or someone like that that wins the World Series, I don't

think that requires an asterisk. I think everybody for the next 100 years is going to know that this was a pandemic year."

The big four-oh-oh

The huge stat question: Could someone hit .400 in this shortened season?

NL MVP Cody Bellinger got off to a scorching start last year, batting .376 after the Dodgers' 60th game. He finished at .305.

Chipper Jones was the most recent to top .400 through 60 — he was at .409 in 2008. Larry Walker (417) and Tony Gwynn (403) both started fast in 1997, the Elias Sports Bureau said.

Fewer games, a lot of walks, a couple of infield knocks, yep, it's possible. But there's a reason Ted Williams remains the last player to hit the hallowed mark in a full season, batting .406 in 1941 (always splendid, he was at .407 after 60).

Also a fact: No one would treat the achievement this year on a par with Ted.

A can of corn

Shucks! Might not be a game in the "Field of Dreams" cornfield this summer. MLB did a great job building a diamond next to the movie site near Dyersville, Iowa, to host the Yankees and White Sox on Aug. 13, but fans can't come.

Also scrapped: Matchups in London, Mexico City and Puerto Rico. No official word yet on the All-Star Game, which was set for July 14 at Dodger Stadium.

Ouch

All-Star aces Chris Sale, Luis Severino and Noah Syndergaard are out while rehabbing from Tommy John surgery.

But these extra months might've given Aaron Judge, Justin Verlander, Cole Hamels and more time to fully recover. Who knows, maybe even Yoenis Cespedes has healed up.

And additional time off could've given Shohei Ohtani a cushion to build up his arm strength. Sure is neat having a two-way star to track in the majors.



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AUTO RACING/SPORTS BRIEFS

Rope found in Wallace's garage was coincidence

FBI, NASCAR say it had been there since October

By JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

NASCAR went to Talladega Superspeedway on heightened alert after Bubba Wallace, its only Black driver, took on an active role in a push for racial equality.

Wallace had successfully called for the ban of the Confederate flag and received threats. Fans paraded past the main entrance of the Alabama track displaying the flag, and a plane circled above the speedway pulling a Confederate flag banner that read "Defund NASCAR."

So NASCAR moved quickly when one of Wallace's crew members discovered a rope that resembled a noose in their garage stall. The sanctioning body called in federal authorities, who ruled Tuesday it had been hanging there since at least last October and was not a hate crime.

U.S. Attorney Jay Town and FBI Special Agent in Charge Johnnie Sharp Jr. said the investigation determined "nobody could have known Mr. Wallace would be assigned" to that same stall. NASCAR said it was the lone garage stall with a pull down rope that resembled a noose.

NASCAR has defended its reaction and insisted it would call the FBI again. A defiant Wallace said there is no confusion and the rope had been fashioned into a noose.

"I wanted to make sure this wasn't just a knot," Wallace said on CNN. "It was a noose. Whether it was in 2019 ... it is a noose."

Wallace never saw the rope. He said NASCAR President Steve Phelps came to see him Sunday night at the track with "tears running down his face."

"The evidence he brought to me was that a hate crime has been committed, quote-on-quote," said Wallace, who instantly began to fear for the safety of his family.

Even after the conclusion it was not a hate crime, Wallace remained angry at what he perceives as constant tests of his character. He holds no ill-will toward NASCAR.

"I stand behind Steve and I stand behind NASCAR," he said. "NASCAR was worried about Talladega. We had that one circled on the radar with everything going on."

NASCAR opened the Talladega gates to 5,000 fans, its highest number so far during the coronavirus pandemic.

Since finding his voice over the last month, the 26-year-old Mobile, Ala., native has embraced an international role in NASCAR's attempt to push past its rocky racial history. Wallace has worn an "I Can't Breathe" shirt, raced with a Black Lives Matter paint

“The evidence was very clear that the noose that was in the garage was there previously.”

Steve Phelps
NASCAR president

scheme in Virginia and successfully lobbied for the Confederate flag ban.

NASCAR has assigned security to Wallace at the track and has been protective of the driver. The first word of the incident came in a sharply worded statement in which NASCAR said it was "angry and outraged" over the "heinous act" that the series directly linked to racism.

The FBI sent 15 agents to Talladega for Monday's rescheduled race at the same time the industry rallied around Wallace. In an unprecedented show of solidarity, every team member on pit road lined up behind him during the national anthem.

Phelps has taken exactly nine questions about the finding in Wallace's garage and none provided any details of the incident. Because of health protocol restrictions, a limited number of personnel have access to the garage. Only a handful of Wallace's crew members and NASCAR saw the rope.

Roughly 48 hours after the discovery, federal authorities said video confirmed the rope "was in that garage as early as October 2019" hanging from a garage door. The rope was referred to as a noose, but can be used as a handle when closing the door.

Phelps continued to call it a

noose after authorities said no charges would be filed, and held firm in that NASCAR is investigating why the rope was tied that way. He was pleased it wasn't a hate crime directed at Wallace, but insisted NASCAR would have conducted its investigation the same way even now knowing it was just a coincidence.

"We would have done the same investigation. It was important for us to do," he said.

"The evidence was very clear that the noose that was in the garage was in there previously. The last race we had in October, that noose was present. The evidence we had, it was clear we needed to look into this."

He took no questions on the FBI's findings.

Meanwhile, Wood Brothers Racing team said it cooperated with the investigation and an employee recalled "seeing a tied handle in the garage pull down rope from last fall," when the team had the stall.

NASCAR saying it had found a noose stunned the stock car series as it takes an active position in a push for inclusion. The series first tried to ban the Confederate flag five years ago but did nothing to enforce the order.

NASCAR has yet to detail how it will answer Wallace's call to stop the display of the flag.



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

NASCAR drivers Kyle Busch, left, and Corey LaJoie, right, join others and crews as they push the car of Bubba Wallace to the front of the field prior to the start of the race at the Talladega Superspeedway on Monday. The rope found in Wallace's stall was determined by the FBI to have been there since October.



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic has tested positive for the coronavirus and is quarantining in his native Serbia, according to a person with knowledge of the situation.

Briefly

Jokic tests positive for coronavirus

Associated Press

All-Star forward Nikola Jokic of the Denver Nuggets has tested positive for the coronavirus and is quarantining in his native Serbia, according to a person with knowledge of the situation.

Jokic is expected to return to Denver long before the team leaves for the Disney complex for the restart of the NBA season next month, said the person who spoke to The Associated Press on Tuesday on the condition of anonymity because neither the player nor the team acknowledged the positive test publicly.

ESPN and The Denver Post previously reported Jokic's positive test, which came on the same day that another top Serbian athlete, Novak Djokovic, the world's top-ranked men's tennis player — revealed that he and his wife had tested positive for the virus.

Djokovic and Jokic were together at an event earlier this month, though it cannot be concluded it played a role in the positive test of either athlete.

Jokic is averaging 20.2 points and 10.2 rebounds this season.

When the season resumes July 30 at Disney's ESPN Wide World of Sports complex, the Nuggets will start with a 43-22 record, placing them 1½ games behind the second-place Los Angeles Clippers and 1½ games ahead of fourth-place Utah in the Western Conference playoff race.

Last week, Nuggets coach Michael Malone revealed he tested positive for COVID-19 antibodies and added that he believes he had the virus in March.

In other NBA news:

Los Angeles Lakers guard Avery Bradley has decided to sit out the NBA's upcoming resumption of the season in Florida.

He told ESPN on Tuesday night that he wants to remain with his wife and three children, including a 6-year-old son with a history of respiratory illness. By sitting out, Bradley figures to lose a projected \$650,000 in salary.

Bradley averaged 8.6 points and 2.3 rebounds while starting 44 games before the season was shut down in March due to the coronavirus. The Lakers are the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference heading into the 22-team restart.

"I can't imagine making any decision that might put my family's health and well-being at even the slightest risk," Bradley told ESPN.

Rockies star Blackmon tests positive for virus

All-Star outfielder Charlie Blackmon of the Colorado Rockies has become the first Major League Baseball player known to have tested positive for the coronavirus.

A person familiar with Blackmon's situation confirmed the test result to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because there was no official announcement.

The Denver Post first reported Blackmon's condition, saying Tuesday that three Rockies players had tested positive.

Blackmon is a four-time All-Star slugger who hit .314 with 32 home runs and 86 RBIs last season.

New York City, Berlin marathons canceled

NEW YORK — The New York City Marathon scheduled for Nov. 1 was canceled Wednesday because of the coronavirus pandemic.

New York Road Runners announced the cancellation of the world's largest marathon after coordinating with the mayor's office and deciding the race posed too many health and safety concerns for runners, volunteers, spectators and others.

The Berlin Marathon also was canceled. Organizers say they were not able to find a later date. Authorities in Germany have blocked the hosting of major events through October.

NFL/SOCCER

No reverse: Brady, Bucs continue workouts

NFLPA's recommendation ignored by players

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Tom Brady continues to prepare for his first season with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, working out with teammates at a private school despite a union recommendation that players not conduct any more group practices before training camp.

The six-time Super Bowl champion was joined on the field Tuesday by a group of teammates that included tight end Rob Gronkowski, quarterbacks Blaine Gabbert and Ryan Griffin, center Ryan Jensen, cornerback Jamel Dean and safety Mike Edwards.

With NFL training facilities still closed to players because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Brady has been leading small voluntary workouts near downtown Tampa for much of the past month.

The latest session came just three days after the Bucs confirmed an unspecified number of "individuals" tested positive for COVID-19 at the team's training center.

The same day, NFL Players Association medical director Dr. Thom Mayer, recommended all NFL players refrain from working out in group settings until training camp begins next month.

"It is our consensus medical opinion that in light of the increase in COVID-19 cases in certain states that no players should be engaged in practicing together in private workouts," Mayer said.

The Bucs did not release the number or names of people who tested positive at the team's headquarters.

"We immediately activated our COVID-19 Response Plan and vacated the affected areas, which will remain closed until extensive sanitization is completed," the team said in a statement. "The individuals who may have been exposed have already been notified and are following the established protocols which include a 14-day quarantine period."

The club added the building would remain open for some employees.



CHRIS URISO, TAMPA BAY TIMES/AP

Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady, far right, is seen along with other players during a private workout Tuesday at Berkeley Preparatory School in Tampa, Fla.

3 USWNT players opt out of NWSL tournament, 2 cite COVID-19 concerns

By ANNE M. PETERSON

Associated Press

U.S. national team players Megan Rapinoe, Tobin Heath and Christen Press have opted out of the National Women's Soccer League tournament kicking off this weekend in Utah.

Heath and Press, who played with Rapinoe on the champion World Cup team last summer in France, cited concerns about the coronavirus.

"Although I want to be on the field with my teammates doing what I love, because of the uncertainty and risks created by COVID-19, I have chosen not to participate in the NWSL Challenge Cup," Heath, who plays for the Portland Thorns, said in a statement released by the team.

The Challenge Cup opens Saturday with a game between the Thorns and the defending champion North Carolina Courage. The league's teams announced their rosters on Tuesday.

Among the national team players taking part in the tournament are Chicago's Julie Ertz, U.S. Soccer's Player of the Year, teammate Alyssa Naeher, North Carolina's Crystal Dunn and Portland's Becky Sauerbrunn.

The league was rocked by the announcement Monday that the Orlando Pride were dropping out of the tournament after six players and four staff members tested positive for COVID-19. The withdrawal leaves eight teams participating in the monthlong tournament.

NWSL Commissioner Lisa Baird said the situation was "hugely" disappointing, given some of the talent on the Pride, including national team players Ali Krieger, Ashlynn Harris, Emily Sonnett and Brazilian star Marta.



STEVE LUCIANO/AP

Forward Tobin Heath, above, and two other U.S. national team players — Megan Rapinoe and Christen Press — opted out of the National Women's Soccer League tournament in Utah.

"We're just really concerned about them (the Pride players) and really disappointed that we won't see them," Baird said. "But we're focusing on what we need to be focused on right now, which is to make sure that the facility, the protocols, all of the player education regarding all the tournament rules and the CDC guidelines or protocols, are in place because tomorrow we start welcoming our first team in Utah."

A new schedule was released Tuesday following the Pride's withdrawal. In addition to Portland's game against the Courage on Saturday, the Chicago Red Stars will play the Washington Spirit in the late match. Rapinoe's team, OL Reign, did not provide a reason for her decision to sit out.

"Megan let us know that she has decided not to play in the tournament. Like all NWSL players, she was given the option to participate. Farid (Benstiti, coach of the Reign) and I would love to have her with the club for the tournament, but we understand and respect her decision," Reign CEO Bill Predmore said in a statement.

Sky Blue previously announced Carli Lloyd would not take part in the tournament because of a minor left knee injury. Teammate Mallory Pugh won't play because of a hip injury. The NWSL will be the first team sport in the United States to return after sports were shut down because of the coronavirus.

Judge denies immediate appeal to women's soccer

By RONALD BLUM

Associated Press

A federal judge has denied a request by American women's soccer players to allow an immediate appeal of his decision to throw out their claim of unequal pay against the U.S. Soccer Federation.

U.S. District Judge R. Gary Klausner in Los Angeles has scheduled a trial for Sept. 15 on the players' remaining claim of discriminatory work conditions.

Lawyers for the women had asked him to enter a final judgment on his decision to dismiss the pay claim, which would have allowed them to take the case to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

"The granting of an immediate appeal will not eliminate the possibility of two trials or the possibility of successive appeals involving interlocking facts," Klausner wrote Tuesday. "The court has declined the parties' request to stay trial pending the resolution of any appeal. And should a jury render a verdict unfavorable to plaintiffs on their remaining claims, there is no reason to think plaintiffs will not appeal that decision."

Klausner ruled May 1 the women could not prove discrimination over pay and granted in part the USSF's motion for a partial summary judgment. He said the union for the women's national team rejected an offer to be paid under the same pay-to-play structure as the men's national team's collective bargaining agreement and the women accepted guar-

anteed salaries and greater benefits along with a different bonus structure.

He also refused to let go to trial allegations the women were discriminated against because they played more games on artificial turf.

Klausner left intact claims the USSF discriminated in its use of charter aircraft, and in the money it spent on commercial airfare, hotel accommodations, and medical and training support services.

"One way or another, we intend to appeal the court's decision which does not account for the central fact in this case that women players have been paid at lesser rates than men who do the same job," Molly Levinson, a spokeswoman for the players, said in a statement.

"Tonight's ruling simply means that an appeal may take longer to file and is a reminder that we must not give up our efforts both on and off the field to fight injustice," Levinson said. "Though we face significant challenges, we are strengthened by the reality that our effort is one part of the greater movement for equality happening in our country right now."

New USSF President Cindy Parlow Cone has said she hopes a settlement can be reached. The collective bargaining agreement expires on Dec. 31, 2021.

Players sued in March 2018 under the Equal Pay Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and asked for more than \$6 million in damages.

SPORTS



False alarm?

FBI says noose was in Wallace's garage since October » **Page 22**

MLB



Back to business

Sport pushes ahead amid virus with short season, different rules

BY BEN WALKER
Associated Press

NEW YORK

So, where were we? Mid-March, a spring training exhibition between the St. Louis Cardinals and Miami Marlins at Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter, Fla. Even before the final out, both sides had gotten the official word: Major League Baseball was shutting down immediately because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"It felt like the most meaningless baseball game in the history of the sport," Cardinals infielder Matt Carpenter said.

'The season's the season. ... A championship's a championship. If the season's a month long, you play for that month.'

Kay Kenealy

59-year-old Brewers fan who has a 20-game ticket package to Brewers games, on whether a World Series title during a shortened season would be legitimate.

So now, they'll try again.

A skewed, 60-game schedule, rather than the full plate of 162, with opening day on July 23 or 24. A shortened, contorted season ordered by Commissioner Rob Manfred on Tuesday night after billionaire owners and multimillion-dollar players couldn't come to a new economic agreement against the backdrop of the virus outbreak. "What happens when we all get it?" Milwaukee pitcher Brett Anderson tweeted this week.

From the start, a sprint to the finish. Got to come out strong. Remember last year: The Nationals were 27-33 through 60 games and

SEE BACK ON PAGE 21



AP photos

Pitchers, like St. Louis Cardinals reliever Junior Fernandez, above, will have their own personal rosin bag, while all games are played in empty stadiums like Seattle's T-Mobile Park, top.

Brady, teammates ignore NFLPA's advice » **NFL, Page 23**

